

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

INTRODUCED BY D. ANKNEY, E. ARNTZEN, DEBBY BARRETT, M. BLASDEL, J. BRENDEN, D. BROWN, T. BROWN, E. BUTTREY, P. CONNELL, B. HAMLETT, K. HANSEN, J. HINKLE, B. HOVEN, D. HOWARD, L. JONES, D. KARY, J. KEANE, F. MOORE, R. RIPLEY, M. ROSENDALE, S. SALES, C. SMITH, N. SWANDAL, J. TAYLOR, F. THOMAS, B. TUTVEDT, G. VANCE, G. VUCKOVICH, R. WEBB, J. WINDY BOY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING THE RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF COAL RESOURCES AND COAL-BASED ELECTRICITY.

WHEREAS, coal represents the most abundant source of energy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, coal is one of the most reliable and affordable sources of fuel for electric generation; and

WHEREAS, consumers, businesses, communities, and service providers need affordable energy more than ever in this time of economic uncertainty and stand to benefit from affordable and reliable coal-based electricity; and

WHEREAS, the United States holds more coal reserves than any other nation, and Montana is home to the largest coal reserves in the United States with nearly one-third of the estimated recoverable reserves; and

WHEREAS, Montana's annual coal production is currently only 1/20 of 1% of estimated recoverable reserves, and at our current rate of production, it would take more than 1,600 years to exhaust Montana's coal reserves; and

WHEREAS, responsible development of Montana's coal resources will create thousands of new jobs and provide millions of dollars in tax revenue for state and local governments and schools; and

WHEREAS, the coal reserves in Montana can meet the demands of the domestic market and earn revenue for the state of Montana by being exported to foreign markets via West Coast ports; and

WHEREAS, coal-generated electricity has increased by 183% since 1970, while emissions from coal-based power plants have been reduced by 75% per generation unit; and

WHEREAS, Montana, the Treasure State, has abundant natural resources and produces valuable commodities from agriculture, mining, timber, energy, and manufacturing industries; and

WHEREAS, expanded, responsible development of Montana's natural resources would benefit every



1 Montanan by creating thousands of new jobs, new economic opportunities, and billions of dollars in tax revenue  
2 for state and local governments and schools; and

3 WHEREAS, producers of Montana commodities need access to all markets, foreign and domestic, in  
4 order to grow, prosper, and achieve maximum profitability.

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6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 STATE OF MONTANA:

8 That the 64th Legislature supports the continued use and responsible development of coal-based power  
9 in the United States and supports the expansion of additional shipping capacity through new and existing ports  
10 in order to allow for the sale of Montana resources to emerging markets.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President  
12 of the United States, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,  
13 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of  
14 Energy, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Governor of the State  
15 of Montana.

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