

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

WHEREAS, a reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to Missouri's economic growth, jobs, and overall interests of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Missouri supports an all-the-above energy strategy because it is in the best interest of Missouri and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States has abundant supplies of coal that provide economic and energy security benefits; and

WHEREAS, coal provides affordable and reliable electricity to the citizens of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled power plants could threaten the affordability and reliability of Missouri's electricity supplies and, therefore, threaten the well-being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. coal-fueled power plants represent only three percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that U.S. electric sector carbon dioxide emissions will be fourteen percent below 2005 levels in 2020 and that carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. coal-fueled power plants will be nineteen percent below 2005 levels in 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2013, the President directed the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue standards, regulations, or guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified, and reconstructed fossil-fueled power plants; and

WHEREAS, the President expressly recognized that states "will play a central role in establishing and implementing carbon standards for existing power plants"; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to establish a "procedure" under which each state shall develop a plan for establishing and implementing standards of performance for existing sources within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act expressly allows states, in developing and applying such standards of performance, "to take into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful life of the existing source to which such standard applies"; and

WHEREAS, the EPA's existing regulations provide that states may adopt "less stringent emissions standards or longer compliance schedules" than EPA's guidelines based on factors such as "unreasonable cost of control", "physical impossibility of installing necessary control equipment", or other factors that make less stringent standards or longer compliance times "significantly more reasonable"; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of electricity consumers in Missouri to continue to benefit from reliable, affordable electricity provided by coal-based electricity generating plants:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the EPA, in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of Missouri and other states and to rely on state regulators to develop performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions that take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mix, and economic priorities of Missouri and other states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EPA should issue guidelines and approve state-established performance standards that are based on reductions of carbon dioxide emissions achievable by measures undertaken at fossil-fueled power plants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EPA should allow Missouri and other states to set less stringent performance standards and longer compliance schedules for power plants within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Missouri and other states should be given maximum flexibility by the EPA to implement carbon dioxide performance standards for fossil-fueled power plants within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.