

Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 5, 2021

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3025
(Representatives Nehring, Delzer, Kreidt, Porter, Schmidt, Toman)
(Senators Anderson, Kannianen, Bell)

A concurrent resolution urging the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota and to increase support for research, development, and deployment for next generation carbon-based energy generation.

WHEREAS, North Dakota has at least an 800-year supply of economically recoverable lignite coal at current production rates and has become the second largest oil producer in the United States; and

WHEREAS, because of energy intensive industries, weather extremes, and transportation requirements, North Dakota is ranked second in the nation in energy expenditures per capita based on 2018 data used in the latest rankings from the United States Energy Information Administration; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota lignite industry generates over 60 percent of the electricity in the state and provides affordable electricity to more than two million families throughout the upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the lignite coal industry contributes more than \$5.4 billion in total business activity to North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the lignite coal industry employs 13,000 individuals with some of the highest wages in the state; and

WHEREAS, economic analysis by the North Dakota State University agribusiness and applied economics researchers estimates a new 500 megawatt, coal-based electric generating facility would create \$54.3 million in personal income, \$40 million in retail sales, and \$173.7 million in total business activity each year; and

WHEREAS, the current value of the state's existing coal-based infrastructure is \$18.6 billion; and

WHEREAS, state tax revenues attributed to the lignite industry have increased from \$61.4 million in 2000 to over \$125 million in 2020; and

WHEREAS, current federal regulations represent a de facto ban on the construction of new, efficient, and cost-effective coal-based power plants and threaten the continued operation of existing coal-based power plants; and

WHEREAS, federal policy gives other electric generation resources a significant competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty around federal regulations continues to discourage investment in coal-based facilities; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota continues to serve as a model for responsible production of its natural resources, including a longstanding standard of reclaiming mined land to as good or better than before mining; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota continues to be one of only 17 states meeting all federal ambient air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, affordable, reliable power is the backbone of North Dakota's established and emerging industries; and

WHEREAS, advancements in carbon capture utilization and storage can unlock enormous potential for the state's energy industries and economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota and to increase its support for research, development, and deployment for next generation carbon-based energy generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to withdraw and revise regulations and other administrative actions that negatively impact the ability to use North Dakota's lignite coal reserves for affordable and reliable domestic power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to work with the state, the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the North Dakota lignite industry to design and implement regulatory programs based on sound science with inputs from local sources, recognize the status of existing technology, and develop timelines that make economic sense for the producers and consumers of electricity and byproducts derived from North Dakota lignite; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to increase its partnership with the state of North Dakota and industry to develop technological solutions to enable the continuation of lignite-based electric generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2021,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State