

First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R15-1062.01 Kurt Woock x4349

SJR15-021

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Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-021

101 CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COAL TO THE
102 COLORADO ECONOMY.

1 WHEREAS, Maintaining affordable, reliable, and diverse sources
2 of fuel for the production of electricity is vital to Colorado's economic
3 growth, jobs, and the well-being of its citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, Coal is an integral component of the state's electricity
5 generation portfolio, currently providing sixty-four percent of Colorado's
6 electricity; and

7 WHEREAS, Colorado coal is of superior quality and is highly
8 sought, qualifying as "super compliance" coal as defined in the "Energy
9 Policy Act of 2005"; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
Amended Final Rdg.
April 29, 2015

1 WHEREAS, Colorado coal producers have won national and state
2 awards for reclamation of mined lands for uses such as wildlife habitat
3 and livestock grazing; and

4 WHEREAS, Emissions from coal have fallen by ninety percent
5 nationwide during the past forty years while its use in electricity
6 generation has more than doubled; and

7 WHEREAS, The use of coal in the production of electricity has
8 been a major factor of Colorado's average electricity price being
9 consistently below the national average; and

10 WHEREAS, The citizens of Colorado have benefitted from
11 coal-fired electrical generation in the form of affordable electricity prices
12 and a reliable electricity grid; and

13 WHEREAS, Affordable and reliable electricity is critical in
14 attracting new businesses, such as high-tech companies, to Colorado; and

15 WHEREAS, Colorado's economy benefits from a vibrant, in-state
16 coal industry that creates over twenty-one thousand direct and indirect
17 jobs in Colorado and contributes over \$2.6 billion to Colorado's GDP;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The total payroll and benefits paid by Colorado coal
20 producers is over \$238 million, and the average labor income in
21 Colorado's coal industry is fifty percent higher than the average labor
22 income for all industries in the state; and

23 WHEREAS, Colorado's coal producers have paid royalties
24 exceeding \$500 million to the federal government since 2003 and have
25 paid tens of millions more in taxes and royalties to the state, portions of
26 which are used to support public education and other critical government
27 functions; and

28 WHEREAS, Colorado ranks fourth among states in federal coal
29 royalty payments, based on 2014 data; and

30 WHEREAS, Regulatory uncertainty in state and federal policies
31 can affect Colorado coal production, which can result in job losses in
32 rural communities and lost revenues to all levels of government; and

1 WHEREAS, Colorado citizens in every region of the state benefit
2 directly and indirectly from the jobs and revenues associated with coal
3 production, transportation, and electricity generation; now, therefore,

4 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
5 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

6 That we, the General Assembly:

7 (1) Recognize and appreciate the important contribution the coal
8 mining industry makes to the economic health of Colorado;

9 (2) Recognize and appreciate the key role coal production plays
10 in providing an affordable and reliable electricity supply to the people of
11 Colorado;

12 (3) Commend those Colorado electric utility companies that
13 diversify their power sources to include affordable and reliable coal;

14 (4) Urge state agencies and local governments to adopt policies
15 that avoid unnecessary and unreasonable barriers to the utilization of coal
16 as a reliable power source;

17 (5) Urge government agencies on all levels to address the specific
18 concerns of economically distressed areas.

19 (6) Urge the executive branch of our state government to ensure
20 the vitality of Colorado's coal industry in the future; and

21 (7) Urge and request the executive and legislative branches of the
22 federal government to adopt policies that preserve and enhance the
23 diversity of resources used in the production of electricity, including coal,
24 to ensure our continued national and economic security.