



SR0912

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, Coal provides affordable and reliable electricity to the citizens of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled power plants could threaten the affordability and reliability of Illinois's electricity supplies and risk substantial job losses through the premature closure of power plants that have just invested in pollution controls to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's recent mercury regulations; and

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WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide emissions for United States' coal-fueled power plants represent only 3% of global

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1 anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions; and

2 WHEREAS, The United States Energy Information  
3 Administration projects that U.S. electric sector carbon  
4 dioxide emissions will be 14% below 2005 levels in 2020 and  
5 that carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. coal-fueled power  
6 plants will be 19% below 2005 levels in 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 25, 2013 the President directed the  
8 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection  
9 Agency to issue standards, regulations, or guidelines to  
10 address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified,  
11 and reconstructed fossil-fueled power plants; and

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

15 WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act requires the Environmental  
16 Protection Agency to establish a procedure under which each  
17 state shall develop a plan for establishing and implementing  
18 standards of performance for existing sources within the state;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act expressly allows states, in  
21 developing and applying such standards of performance, "to take

1 into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful  
2 life of the existing source to which such standard applies";  
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4 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency's existing  
5 regulations provide that states may adopt "less stringent  
6 emissions standards or longer compliance schedules" than EPA's  
7 guidelines based on factors such as "unreasonable cost of  
8 control", "physical impossibility of installing necessary  
9 control equipment" or other factors that make less stringent  
10 standards or longer compliance times "significantly more  
11 reasonable"; and

12 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of electricity  
13 consumers in Illinois to continue to benefit from reliable,  
14 affordable electricity provided by coal-based electricity  
15 generating plants; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that urges we urge the  
18 United States Environmental Protection Agency, in developing  
19 guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from  
20 existing power plants, to respect the primacy of Illinois and  
21 other states and to rely on state regulators to develop  
22 performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions that take  
23 into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mix,

1 and economic priorities of Illinois; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Environmental Protection Agency should  
3 issue guidelines and approve state-established performance  
4 standards that are based on reductions of carbon dioxide  
5 emissions achievable by measures undertaken at fossil-fueled  
6 power plants; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Environmental Protection Agency should  
8 allow Illinois and other states to set less stringent  
9 performance standards or longer compliance schedules for power  
10 plants within their jurisdiction; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That Illinois and other states should be given  
12 maximum flexibility by the Environmental Protection Agency to  
13 implement carbon dioxide performance standards for  
14 fossil-fueled power plants within their jurisdiction; and be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
17 delivered to the Illinois Congressional delegation, the  
18 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection  
19 Agency Gina McCarthy, and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.