

House Resolution 118 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 118

BY WATTS, GASSMAN, WINDSCHITL, SALMON, HUSEMAN,
GUSTAFSON, SHAW, DEYOE, ALONS, SHEETS, R. TAYLOR,
LOFGREN, FISHER, HEARTSILL, BAUDLER, RAYHONS,
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1 A Resolution in support of recognizing the lead role of
2 states in the regulation of carbon dioxide emissions
3 from existing power plants.

4 WHEREAS, a reliable and affordable energy supply is
5 vital to Iowa's economic growth and the employment and
6 well-being of its citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, Iowa supports a comprehensive energy
8 strategy because it is in the state's best interests
9 and the best interests of the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States possesses abundant
11 supplies of coal capable of providing economic and
12 energy security benefits; and

13 WHEREAS, the use of coal provides affordable and
14 reliable electricity to the citizens of Iowa; and

15 WHEREAS, carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled
16 power plants could threaten the affordability
17 and reliability of Iowa's electricity supply and,
18 therefore, the well-being of its citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information
20 Administration projects that the United States electric
21 sector carbon dioxide emissions will be 14 percent
22 below 2005 levels by the year 2020 and that carbon
23 dioxide emissions from United States coal-fueled power
24 plants will be 19 percent below 2005 levels in the year
25 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, on June 25, 2013, the President of the
2 United States directed the Administrator of the
3 United States Environmental Protection Agency to issue
4 standards, regulations, or guidelines to address carbon
5 dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified, and
6 reconstructed fossil-fuel power plants; and

7 WHEREAS, the President of the United States
8 expressly recognized that states will play a central
9 role in establishing and implementing carbon standards
10 for existing power plants; and

11 WHEREAS, the federal Clean Air Act requires the
12 United States Environmental Protection Agency to
13 establish a procedure under which each state shall
14 develop a plan for establishing and implementing
15 standards of performance for existing energy sources
16 within the state; and

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

22 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of electricity
23 consumers in Iowa to continue to benefit from reliable,
24 affordable electricity provided by coal-based
25 electricity generating plants; NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
27 That the House of Representatives urges the United
28 States Environmental Protection Agency, in developing
29 guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions
30 from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of

1 Iowa and other states and to rely on state regulators
2 to develop performance standards for carbon dioxide
3 emissions that take into account the unique policies,
4 energy needs, resource mix, and economic priorities of
5 Iowa and other states; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
7 resolution be sent to the Administrator of the United
8 States Environmental Protection Agency and to the
9 members of Iowa's congressional delegation.