
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 439 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SOLOBAY, YAW AND ARGALL, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Calling on the United States Environmental Protection Agency to
2 schedule public hearings on the proposed Clean Power Plan
3 rule in coalfield communities and to withdraw the proposed
4 rule or revise it to eliminate the economic shocks that will
5 occur to critical coalfield communities in this Commonwealth
6 and throughout the United States.

7 WHEREAS, America's coal miners have worked for decades to
8 provide energy for our nation; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 100,000 miners have been killed in mines
10 over the last 100 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Occupational diseases have killed another 100,000
12 miners; and

13 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of retired miners and their
14 dependents and surviving spouses rely on the pensions and health
15 care earned through decades of hard, dangerous work; and

16 WHEREAS, Thousands more miners work every day in our nation's
17 coal mines to provide a decent standard of living for their
18 families and to drive their local economies; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency
20 (EPA) has proposed a Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule with the stated

1 intent of reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions which
2 contribute to climate change; and

3 WHEREAS, The proposed CPP rule will lead to the closure of
4 coal-burning power plants throughout the United States,
5 resulting in the loss of more than 52,000 jobs in the coal,
6 utility and railroad industries by 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, Further direct job losses in these industries will
8 reach 65,000 by 2030 as a result of this proposed rule; and

9 WHEREAS, These job losses will have a ripple effect in the
10 communities throughout the coalfields and beyond, where more
11 than 208,000 jobs will be lost by 2030; and

12 WHEREAS, Retirement security for retirees, spouses and widows
13 will be put at significant risk as a result of this proposed
14 rule; and

15 WHEREAS, Independent analysis indicates that there will be
16 approximately a 1% reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions
17 as a result of the proposed CPP rule, meaning that it will have
18 little real effect toward meeting its stated goal; and

19 WHEREAS, The EPA has not held public hearings on this
20 proposed rule in coalfield communities, but has conducted them
21 instead in cities which are not near coal mines or coal workers;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The people who will be most adversely affected by
24 this proposed rule are being shut out of the process, with no
25 vote, no voice and no consideration being paid to what will
26 happen to them and their communities; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
28 call on the Environmental Protection Agency to schedule public
29 hearings on the proposed Clean Power Plan rule in coalfield
30 communities; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2 call on the Environmental Protection Agency to withdraw the
3 proposed Clean Power Plan rule or revise it to eliminate the
4 economic shocks that will occur to critical coalfield
5 communities in this Commonwealth and throughout the United
6 States; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
8 the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member
9 of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the United Mine Workers of
10 America.