
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1049 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, R. MILLER, MILLARD, PICKETT, MIRABITO,
WHITE, JAMES, AUMENT, LUCAS, REED, SWANGER, READSHAW, DAVIS,
SANKEY, KRIEGER, FARINA, MASSER, NEUMAN, GIBBONS, MAHONEY,
C. HARRIS, OBERLANDER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MAJOR, YOUNGBLOOD,
MARSHALL, HARHAI, BARRAR, D. COSTA, MARSICO, GINGRICH AND
MURT, OCTOBER 3, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
OCTOBER 3, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Environmental Protection Agency to schedule public
2 hearings in coal communities in this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, America's coal miners have worked for decades to
4 provide the means to energize our nation; and

5 WHEREAS, The work has cost the lives of more than 100,000
6 miners who have been killed in the mines over the last 100 years
7 with another 100,000 dying by contracting occupational diseases;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of retired miners and their
10 dependents and surviving spouses depend on pensions and health
11 care earned through decades of hard and dangerous work; and

12 WHEREAS, Thousands more miners are at work every day in our
13 nation's coal mines to provide a decent standard of living for
14 their families and are the economic drivers of their local
15 economies; and

1 WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a
2 Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule with the stated intention of
3 reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute
4 to climate change; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Further direct job losses in the industries will
10 reach 65,000 by 2030 as a result of the proposed CPP rule; and

11 WHEREAS, The job losses will have a ripple effect in the
12 communities throughout the coalfields and beyond where more than
13 208,000 jobs will be lost by 2030; and

14 WHEREAS, The retirement security of retirees, spouses and
15 widows will be put at significant risk as a result of the
16 proposed CPP rule; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Economy League, the
18 coal industry in this Commonwealth employs 36,200 individuals
19 and brings in roughly \$4.1 billion of total value to the economy
20 of this Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth extracts roughly 68 million tons
22 annually and is the fourth largest coal-producing state in the
23 country; and

24 WHEREAS, Forty percent of electricity produced in this
25 Commonwealth comes from coal, making it the largest resource for
26 generating electricity in this Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, Independent analysis indicates there will be
28 approximately a 1% reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions
29 as a result of the proposed CPP rule, meaning the rule will have
30 little effect toward meeting its stated goal; and

1 WHEREAS, The EPA has not seen it fit to hold public hearings
2 on this rule in coalfield communities, but instead held public
3 hearings in cities not located near coal mines or coal workers;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The people who will be most adversely affected by
6 the proposed CPP rule are being shut out of the process, with no
7 vote, no voice and no consideration about what will happen to
8 them and their communities; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Environmental Protection
11 Agency to schedule public hearings in coal communities in this
12 Commonwealth; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on the Environmental
15 Protection Agency to either withdraw or revise the proposed rule
16 to eliminate the economic shocks that will occur to critical
17 coalfield communities throughout the United States; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
20 all members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and the
21 United Mine Workers of America.