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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 815 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, READSHAW, COHEN, KIRKLAND, MARSHALL,  
SANKEY, HEFFLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, GIBBONS, KORTZ AND D. COSTA,  
APRIL 29, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
APRIL 29, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Environmental Protection Agency, in developing  
2 guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from  
3 existing power plants, to respect the primacy of this  
4 Commonwealth and other states and to rely on state regulators  
5 to develop performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions  
6 that take into account the unique policies, energy needs,  
7 resource mix and economic priorities of this Commonwealth and  
8 other states.

9 WHEREAS, A reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to  
10 this Commonwealth's economic growth, jobs and the overall  
11 interests of its citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth supports an all-of-the-above  
13 energy strategy because it is in the nation's and its best  
14 interests; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Coal provides affordable and reliable electricity to  
18 the citizens of this Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, Carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled power  
20 plants could threaten the affordability and reliability of this

1 Commonwealth's electricity supplies and risk substantial job  
2 losses through the premature closure of power plants that have  
3 just invested in pollution controls to meet the Environmental  
4 Protection Agency's (EPA) recent mercury regulations; and

5 WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fueled power  
6 plants in the United States represent only 3% of global  
7 anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Energy Information Administration  
9 projects that the nation's electric sector carbon dioxide  
10 emissions will be 14% below 2005 levels in 2020 and that carbon  
11 dioxide emissions from coal-fueled power plants will be 19%  
12 below 2005 levels in 2020; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 25, 2013, the President of the United States  
14 directed the Administrator of the EPA to issue standards,  
15 regulations or guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions  
16 from new, existing, modified and reconstructed fossil-fueled  
17 power plants; and

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

21 WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to establish a  
22 procedure under which each state shall develop a plan for  
23 establishing and implementing standards of performance for  
24 existing sources within the state; and

25 WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act expressly allows states, in  
26 developing and applying such standards of performance, "to take  
27 into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful  
28 life of the existing source to which such standard applies"; and

29 WHEREAS, The EPA's existing regulations provide that states  
30 may adopt "less stringent emissions standards or longer

1 compliance schedules" than EPA's guidelines based on factors  
2 such as "unreasonable cost of control," "physical impossibility  
3 of installing necessary control equipment" or other factors that  
4 make less stringent standards or longer compliance times  
5 "significantly more reasonable"; and

6 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of electricity consumers  
7 in this Commonwealth to continue to benefit from reliable,  
8 affordable electricity provided by coal-based electricity  
9 generating plants; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the EPA, in  
11 developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions  
12 from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of this  
13 Commonwealth and other states and to rely on state regulators to  
14 develop performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions that  
15 take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource  
16 mix and economic priorities of this Commonwealth and other  
17 states; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the EPA should issue guidelines and approve  
19 state-established performance standards that are based on  
20 reductions of carbon dioxide emissions achievable by measures  
21 undertaken at fossil-fueled power plants; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the EPA should allow the Commonwealth and  
23 other states to set less stringent performance standards or  
24 longer compliance schedules for power plants within their  
25 jurisdiction; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth and other states should be  
27 given maximum flexibility by the EPA to implement carbon dioxide  
28 performance standards for fossil-fueled power plants within  
29 their jurisdiction.