



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO INVESTIGATE THREATS TO THE MINING AND BURNING OF COAL IN MONTANA AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN COAL MINING AND USAGE.

WHEREAS, the mining and burning of coal in Montana is a significant part of Montana's economy and is a significant fiscal resource for the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, to plan for the future of Montana, residents need to better understand the economic and ecological effects of reducing or eliminating the mining and burning of coal, if threats to one or both become manifest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) investigate the future outlook of coal markets and the coal industry;
- (2) investigate the consequences of significant reductions in the mining and burning of coal, if threats to one or both become manifest, to:
 - (a) local, regional, and statewide economic sectors, including the impacts to existing contracts for the mining or burning of coal; and
 - (b) Montana's existing electrical generation;
- (3) outline measurements of the economic impacts of reducing or eliminating the mining or burning of coal; and
- (4) assess the role of the coal severance tax in Montana's future, the financial ramifications of reducing coal mining in Montana, and the potential for other economic sectors to compensate for any reduction in the coal severance tax due to reduced coal mining in Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 66th Legislature.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within joint resolution,
SJ 0005, originated in the Senate.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2017.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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