

Statement of PPL Montana
Before the House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Of the Montana House of Representatives
In Support of Senate Bill 105
January 17, 2007

David Hoffman, Manager, External Affairs
825 Great Northern Blvd.
Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 457-5300

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am David Hoffman, Manager of External Affairs for PPL Montana.

PPL Montana takes its commitment to the environment very seriously—including the issue of climate change. PPL Montana is participating in a number of research and development efforts, including the Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership.

We believe it is important to develop options for the continued use of Montana's coal resources in environmentally responsible ways. The coal resources we have can make Montana a vital component of a reliable and secure energy future for the country.

Climate change has implications for all Montanans. For owners of fossil-fuel power plants, technology is an essential consideration. There simply is no technology available for use today that can capture and remove carbon dioxide from plant emissions. The technologies currently under development at research centers are currently at laboratory scale and may be years away from for commercial application.

Of course, capturing carbon dioxide from flue gas is only one component of the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants. Geologic and terrestrial sequestration are promising options for storage of these gases. However, geologic sequestration is still in the very early stages of research and development and faces many obstacles in its deployment. Carbon offsets are an essential part of any climate change strategy but need to gain more widespread acceptance.

Senate Bill 105 is perhaps the most important climate change bill this Legislature will consider because it may have a direct impact on development and deployment of technologies to capture and sequester greenhouse gases. I can't emphasize enough that technological solutions (other than increased energy efficiency) to reduce or capture carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants that burn fossil fuels are not available at this time. This Bill may help change that.

While new capture and sequestration technologies are being developed, other climate change strategies still need to be implemented, including: new power generation technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation.

I encourage the members of the Committee to give this important legislation your consideration and a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 105.