

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

2 INTRODUCED BY MCNIVEN, ANKNEY, G. BENNETT, BERRY, BLASDEL, BRODEHL, T. BROWN,
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6

7 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
8 MONTANA SUPPORTING THE RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF COAL RESOURCES AND COAL-BASED
9 ELECTRICITY.
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11 WHEREAS, coal represents the most abundant source of energy in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, coal is one of the most reliable and affordable sources of fuel for electric generation; and

13 WHEREAS, consumers, businesses, communities, and service providers need affordable energy more
14 than ever in this time of economic uncertainty and stand to benefit from affordable and reliable coal-based
15 electricity; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States holds more coal reserves than any other nation, and Montana is home to
17 the largest coal reserves in the United States with nearly one-third of the estimated recoverable reserves; and

18 WHEREAS, Montana's annual coal production is currently only 1/20 of 1% of estimated recoverable
19 reserves, and at our current rate of production, it would take more than 1,600 years to exhaust Montana's coal
20 reserves; and

21 WHEREAS, RESPONSIBLE development of Montana's coal resources will create thousands of new jobs
22 and provide millions of dollars in tax revenue for state and local governments and schools; and

23 WHEREAS, the coal reserves in Montana can meet the demands of the domestic market and earn
24 revenue for the state of Montana by being exported to foreign markets via West Coast ports; and

25 WHEREAS, coal-generated electricity has increased by 183% since 1970, while emissions from
26 coal-based power plants have been reduced by 75% per generation unit; and

27 WHEREAS, Montana, the Treasure State, has abundant natural resources and produces valuable
28 commodities from agriculture, mining, timber, energy, and manufacturing industries; and

29 WHEREAS, expanded, RESPONSIBLE development of Montana's natural resources would benefit every
30 Montanan by creating thousands of new jobs, new economic opportunities, and billions of dollars in tax revenue

1 for state and local governments and schools; and

2 WHEREAS, producers of Montana commodities need access to all markets, foreign and domestic, in
3 order to grow, prosper, and achieve maximum profitability.

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

7 That the 63rd Legislature supports the continued use and RESPONSIBLE development of coal-based power
8 in the United States and supports the expansion of additional shipping capacity through new and existing ports
9 in order to allow for the sale of Montana resources to emerging markets.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President
11 of the United States, the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate,
12 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of
13 Energy, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Governor of the State
14 of Montana.

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