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1	JOINT RESOLUTION NO
2	INTRODUCED BY
3	(Primary Sponsor)
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING UNDER THE ENERGY ACT OF 2020 FOR
6	THE DEVELOPMENT OF CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGIES AT THE COLSTRIP ELECTRIC
7	GENERATING STATION IN ROSEBUD COUNTY, MONTANA.
8	
9	WHEREAS, Units 3 and 4 of the Colstrip Electric Generating Station have been providing affordable
10	and reliable power throughout the Pacific Northwest for more than 40 years and have decades of service life
11	remaining; and
12	WHEREAS, the Colstrip Electric Generating Station provides employment to more than 250 high-wage
13	employees; and
14	WHEREAS, the Rosebud Mine provides employment to nearly 300 high-wage employees, and
15	provides inexpensive, low-sulfur coal to the Colstrip Electric Generating Station; and
16	WHEREAS, the Rosebud Mine contributes more than \$40 million in tax revenue to the State of
17	Montana annually; and
18	WHEREAS, the Rosebud Mine contributes more than \$11 million in royalties to the federal governmen
19	annually; and
20	WHEREAS, severance taxes from the Rosebud Mine have flowed into the Coal Severance Tax Trust
21	Fund for decades and established a trust with a corpus of more than \$1 billion from which the interest has
22	funded countless schools and local water, wastewater, and bridge projects; and
23	WHEREAS, Montana has abundant reserves of coal and our nation has more than 300 years of
24	recoverable coal reserves and more than 30% of the world's proven reserves with an estimated value of more
25	than \$30 trillion; and
26	WHEREAS, even with the rapid deployment of renewable energy sources, the United States Energy
27	Information Administration estimates that coal will continue to account for nearly 15% of our national energy
28	production in the coming decades; and



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1	WHEREAS, utility customers and regulators are demanding reductions in our national energy carbon
2	footprint; and
3	WHEREAS, global investment dollars are migrating away from oil, natural gas, and coal toward
4	nonfossil fuel energy research and development; and
5	WHEREAS, complete removal of coal from the energy mix threatens Montana's utility rate stability and
6	baseload dependability, which would require purchasing energy on the open market during times of high
7	demand, and threatens power dependability during severe weather events; and
8	WHEREAS, lack of investment and early closure of Colstrip Units 3 and 4 is projected to result in the
9	loss of more than 3,000 jobs, reduced collective income by Montana households of more than \$325 million, a
10	reduction in state tax and nontax revenues on the order of \$80 million a year, a population loss of more than
11	7,000 people, and reduced economic activity across the state due to higher electricity prices, reduced
12	interregional trade, and lower state government spending; and
13	WHEREAS, it is in the social and economic interest of the State of Montana to facilitate investment in
14	Colstrip to provide stable and affordable power, to preserve the economy, and to reduce emissions; and
15	WHEREAS, coal remains an essential part of the fuel mix to balance intermittent renewable power, and
16	Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage is the only technology able to achieve deep emission reductions for
17	reliable baseload power; and
18	WHEREAS, power plants equipped with Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage have potential to act
19	as anchor projects for the construction of shared infrastructure, including the creation of industrial carbon
20	capture hubs and clusters, with large quantities of carbon dioxide enabling economies of scale for infrastructure
21	development; and
22	WHEREAS, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage reduces carbon dioxide emissions by more than
23	95%, with the reductions in emissions serving to benefit the health and welfare of Montana's citizens, while
24	helping to preserve the natural environment and economy, and
25	WHEREAS, deployment strategies that shift the focus from large, stand-alone Carbon Capture
26	Utilization and Storage facilities to the development of industrial "hubs" with shared carbon dioxide transport
27	and storage infrastructure are opening up new investment opportunities; and
28	WHEREAS, development of Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage hubs and clusters will keep mines



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and power plants open, high-wage jobs preserved, and potentially attract hundreds of additional jobs in other

industries that benefit from decarbonization and downstream carbon dioxide products.

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

- (1) That the 67th Senate and House of Representatives of Montana maintain standing support of the employees, businesses, and communities that contribute to Montana's energy economy and our national energy security.
- (2) That the 67th Senate and House of Representatives of Montana will resist interference in the operation and maintenance of Montana's energy infrastructure that unduly threatens the viability of the Rosebud Mine, Colstrip Electric Generating Station, and other coal mining operations in Montana that are essential to the thousands of employees, contractors, and vendors who rely on the continued operation of these facilities.
- (3) That the 67th Senate and House of Representatives of Montana urge the United States Congress to commit funding from the Energy Act of 2020 to fund carbon capture research and development and implementation technologies, including commercial scale deployment, at the Colstrip Electric Generating Station in Rosebud County, Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

22 - END -



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