



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

1 and power plants open, high-wage jobs preserved, and potentially attract hundreds of additional jobs in other  
2 industries that benefit from decarbonization and downstream carbon dioxide products.

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

6 (1) That the 67th Senate and House of Representatives of Montana maintain standing support of the  
7 employees, businesses, and communities that contribute to Montana's energy economy and our national  
8 energy security.

9 (2) That the 67th Senate and House of Representatives of Montana will resist interference in the  
10 operation and maintenance of Montana's energy infrastructure that unduly threatens the viability of the  
11 Rosebud Mine, Colstrip Electric Generating Station, and other coal mining operations in Montana that are  
12 essential to the thousands of employees, contractors, and vendors who rely on the continued operation of these  
13 facilities.

14 (3) That the 67th Senate and House of Representatives of Montana urge the United States Congress  
15 to commit funding from the Energy Act of 2020 to fund carbon capture research and development and  
16 implementation technologies, including commercial scale deployment, at the Colstrip Electric Generating  
17 Station in Rosebud County, Montana.

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

22 - END -