

Proposal by Vice Chairman Regier.

Mr. President:

On June 2nd the Environmental Protection Agency announced new regulations on coal-fired power plants that seek to cut CO2 emissions by 30% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. The Montana Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee is adamantly opposed to the EPA setting these rules.

The affect of the new rules will be devastating for Montana which has the nation's largest coal reserves. A U.S. Chamber of Commerce study estimates the new rules will cost \$50 billion a year to businesses and \$550 billion a year to household income. With an abundance of coal in MT the negative effect of the new rules could be greater than in other states. Many coal related jobs at Colstrip and the Crow Reservation would be threatened. Higher utility rates for hundreds of thousands of Montanans that get their electricity from coal would make it tougher to make ends meet and force low income people into poverty. Montana's Coal Tax Trust Fund has close to one billion dollars that provides over \$50 million a year to government services and programs benefiting the public. That continued funding will be in jeopardy with the new EPA rules.

We urge you to rescind the new EPA coal-fired power plant rules and put the issue for Congress to deal with. Regulations made by agencies that are not elected make poor representation. The House and Senate need to debate these rules before they are put into law.

Sincerely,