

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

SENATE BILL 57

SPONSOR STATEMENT

In June 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a proposed rule to regulate emissions from power generators. The proposed rule has two main elements: 1) state-specific emission reduction targets and 2) guidelines for the development, submission, and implementation of state plans to achieve the target reduction. The EPA set Alaska's CO₂ emission reduction target at 26 percent by 2030.

SB 57 requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to seek a waiver or similar exemption from the EPA's proposed rule known as "Existing Source Performance Standards under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. SB 57 provides guidance to DEC regarding the development of a state implementation plan should this rule go into effect.

The EPA's proposed rule will cause significant increases in Alaska's electrical rates, challenge the reliability of electric service and will effectively preempt the state's energy policy. SB 57 is written to protect the state from EPA's overreach by establishing state criteria which must be met should the state be mandated to develop a state implementation plan.

SB 57 protects consumers by requiring DEC to develop a state implementation plan that will not result in increased retail electric costs nor lessen the reliability of Alaska's energy service. Furthermore SB 57 safeguards electrical generation investments, and preserves competition in the public and private sector of Alaska's economy.

SB 57 also requires DEC to prepare a report for the legislature outlining the economics and legal effects of the Clean Power Plan. This report, plus the state plan, will be delivered to the house and senate members fifteen days before the completion of the state plan for legislative review.

Please join me in support of SB 57.

Chair Senate Resources Committee | Vice-Chair Health & Social Services | Vice-Chair Labor & Commerce

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