

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

Committee Substitute Senate Bill 57 Version S

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. In addition, SB 57 requires the department when submitting a state plan, waiver, or exemption to include a description of the effects of the plan on retail electric costs, reliability of Alaska's energy service, electrical generation investments, and competition in the public and private sectors of Alaska's economy.

SB 57 also requires DEC to prepare a report for legislators outlining the economic and legal effects of the Clean Power Plan. This report, plus the state plan, will be delivered to legislators fifteen days before the submission of the state plan to the EPA for legislative review.

SB 57 ensures that Alaskans and members of the legislature are fully informed about effects of the required EPA state plan on Alaskans and Alaska's electrical generation, costs and reliability.

Please join me in support of SB 57.

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