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REPRESENTATIVE DAVE TALERICO

Sponsor Statement for House Joint Resolution 8

“Urging the federal government to empower the state to protect the state’s access to affordable and reliable electrical generation.”

On June 2, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency issued the Clean Power Plan rule in an effort to reduce the amount of carbon emissions from power plants that are currently operating. Unfortunately this will likely result in a sharp increase in the cost of electricity in a state that experiences some of the highest costs in the nation.

Based on Energy Venture Analysis’ study on the EPA’s new rule, electricity rates throughout the country will increase between 27 and 50 percent by the year 2020. With the rate of electricity higher than \$0.50 per kilowatt hour in many Alaskan small towns and villages, the Clean Power Plan rule continues to hurt many Alaskans. This rule puts especially stringent regulations on coal-fired power plants, which not only is one of the most affordable sources of fuel, but if burned correctly with the latest technology can have very low emissions.

This resolution urges the federal government to empower the State of Alaska to regulate its own energy production and use so that Alaskans can have access to the most affordable and reliable sources of electricity. HJR 8 does not neglect the State’s responsibility to the environment, but merely urges the federal government to keep energy production decisions on the State and local levels, thus following the 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

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