

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR GIESSEL

Introduced: 1/21/14

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Energy, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the federal government to empower the state to protect the state's access to**
2 **affordable and reliable electrical generation.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the overreach by the United States Environmental Protection Agency
5 continues to erode state rights; and

6 **WHEREAS** especially egregious is the Clean Power Plan for existing power plants,
7 which places unprecedented regulations on the nation's energy producers and threatens access
8 to affordable and reliable energy solutions for this and other states; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Regulatory Commission of Alaska should be empowered to make
10 decisions with methodology based on the lowest production costs for electrical generation;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** the state would benefit from a one and one-half percent cap on electricity
13 rate increases; and

14 **WHEREAS** utilities, communities, residents, and commercial entities should be
15 protected from any attempts to close a coal-fired power plant in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** the state needs coal-fired power plants to ensure the reliability of the

1 electrical energy grid; and

2 **WHEREAS** the loss of other traditional electrical generation methods may cause
3 natural gas plants to be overused or used in ways that exceed their engineered design; and

4 **WHEREAS** fostering the development and preservation of reliable, affordable, and
5 environmentally safe electricity for communities, homes, and businesses in the state is an
6 essential state activity; and

7 **WHEREAS** the state is better able to deal with the issues described in this resolution
8 than the federal government;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to
10 empower the state government, which is accountable to the people of the state, to regulate its
11 own energy production and use in order to protect access to affordable and reliable electrical
12 generation for residents of the state.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
14 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
15 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of
16 Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
17 Honorable Orrin Hatch, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa
18 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
19 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of
20 the 114th United States Congress.