

As Introduced

130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014

H. R. No. 282

Representatives Dovilla, Hill

RESOLUTION

To urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to
hold public listening sessions on proposed
regulations targeting carbon dioxide emissions
from existing power plants in those states that
would be most directly impacted by the
regulations.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Coal provides affordable, reliable energy that
provides low-cost electricity to individuals and businesses across
the country. The ten states with the highest percentage of
electricity generated from coal in 2012 were West Virginia,
Kentucky, Wyoming, Indiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Utah,
Nebraska, New Mexico, and Ohio; and

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WHEREAS, Nearly 78% of all electricity generated in Ohio
comes from coal. Ohio is the tenth largest coal-producing state in
the nation, and Ohio's coal industry is responsible for
approximately 3,000 direct jobs and 33,000 indirect jobs; and

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WHEREAS, President Barack Obama announced on June 25, 2013,
that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) would adopt
regulations targeting greenhouse gas emissions from existing
coal-fired power plants, with a proposed rule to be released in
June 2014 and a final rule adopted in June 2015; and

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WHEREAS, On September 30, 2013, the USEPA announced that 22
public listening sessions on rulemaking targeting greenhouse gas 23
emissions from existing coal-fired power plants would be held in 24
Boston, Massachusetts; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, 25
Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; Denver, Colorado; Lenexa, Kansas; 26
San Francisco, California; Washington, D.C.; Dallas, Texas; 27
Seattle, Washington; and Chicago, Illinois. The USEPA's 28
announcement of the listening sessions states that "[t]he feedback 29
from these 11 public listening sessions will play an important 30
role in helping USEPA develop smart, cost-effective guidelines 31
that reflect the latest and best information available"; and 32

WHEREAS, None of the eleven public listening sessions 33
announced by the USEPA will be held in any of the ten states with 34
the highest percentage of electricity generated from coal, and 35
none of the sessions will be held in any of the top three 36
coal-producing states. The ten states and the District of Columbia 37
where public listening sessions will be held generate an average 38
of 26% of their electricity from coal; and 39

WHEREAS, Regulatory efforts that could lead to the retirement 40
of additional coal-fired power plants would have a 41
disproportionate impact on jobs, utility rates, and the overall 42
economy in states that rely on coal for a higher percentage of 43
electricity generation; and 44

WHEREAS, The USEPA should use its public listening sessions 45
to hear the potential impact of its regulatory actions in those 46
states where that impact would be the greatest. The USEPA's stated 47
goal of using the listening sessions to help USEPA "develop smart, 48
cost-effective guidelines" cannot be achieved by excluding the 49
views of residents in those states that rely most heavily on coal 50
for electricity generation; now therefore be it 51

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 52
Representatives of the 130th General Assembly of the State of 53

Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge that public listening 54
sessions on rulemaking targeting carbon dioxide emissions from 55
existing power plants should be held in each of the ten states 56
with the highest percentage of electricity generated by coal in 57
2012 and at a time and place that would maximize the ability of 58
individuals to participate; and be it further 59

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 60
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 61
Administrator of the USEPA, the Speaker and Clerk of the United 62
States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and 63
Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the Ohio 64
Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio. 65