

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

LLS NO. R15-1062.01 Kurt Woock x4349

**SJR15-021**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15-021**

101      **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COAL TO THE**  
102                    **COLORADO ECONOMY.**

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1                    WHEREAS, Maintaining affordable, reliable, and diverse  
2 sources of fuel for the production of electricity is vital to Colorado's  
3 economic growth, jobs, and the well-being of its citizens; and

4                    WHEREAS, Coal is an integral component of the state's  
5 electricity generation portfolio, currently providing sixty-four percent  
6 of Colorado's electricity; and

7                    WHEREAS, Colorado coal is of superior quality and is highly  
8 sought, qualifying as "super compliance" coal as defined in the  
9 "Energy Policy Act of 2005"; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1           WHEREAS, Colorado coal producers have won national and  
2 state awards for reclamation of mined lands for uses such as wildlife  
3 habitat and livestock grazing; and

4           WHEREAS, Emissions from coal have fallen by ninety percent  
5 nationwide during the past forty years while its use in electricity  
6 generation has more than doubled; and

7           WHEREAS, The use of coal in the production of electricity has  
8 been a major factor of Colorado's average electricity price being  
9 consistently below the national average; and

10           WHEREAS, The citizens of Colorado have benefitted from  
11 coal-fired electrical generation in the form of affordable electricity  
12 prices and a reliable electricity grid; and

13           WHEREAS, Affordable and reliable electricity is critical in  
14 attracting new businesses, such as high-tech companies, to Colorado;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, Colorado's economy benefits from a vibrant,  
17 in-state coal industry that creates over twenty-one thousand direct and  
18 indirect jobs in Colorado and contributes over \$2.6 billion to  
19 Colorado's GDP; and

20           WHEREAS, The total payroll and benefits paid by Colorado  
21 coal producers is over \$238 million, and the average labor income in  
22 Colorado's coal industry is fifty percent higher than the average labor  
23 income for all industries in the state; and

24           WHEREAS, Colorado's coal producers have paid royalties  
25 exceeding \$500 million to the federal government since 2003 and have  
26 paid tens of millions more in taxes and royalties to the state, portions  
27 of which are used to support public education and other critical  
28 government functions; and

29           WHEREAS, Colorado ranks fourth among states in federal coal  
30 royalty payments, based on 2014 data; and

31           WHEREAS, Regulatory uncertainty in state and federal policies  
32 can affect Colorado coal production, which can result in job losses in  
33 rural communities and lost revenues to all levels of government; and

1           WHEREAS, Colorado citizens in every region of the state  
2 benefit directly and indirectly from the jobs and revenues associated  
3 with coal production, transportation, and electricity generation; now,  
4 therefore,

5           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*  
6 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring*  
7 *herein:*

8           That we, the General Assembly:

9           (1) Recognize and appreciate the important contribution the  
10 coal mining industry makes to the economic health of Colorado;

11           (2) Recognize and appreciate the key role coal production plays  
12 in providing an affordable and reliable electricity supply to the people  
13 of Colorado;

14           (3) Commend those Colorado electric utility companies that  
15 diversify their power sources to include affordable and reliable coal;

16           (4) Urge state agencies and local governments to adopt policies  
17 that avoid unnecessary and unreasonable barriers to the utilization of  
18 coal as a reliable power source;

19           (5) Urge government agencies on all levels to address the  
20 specific concerns of economically distressed areas.

21           (6) Urge the executive branch of our state government to  
22 ensure the vitality of Colorado's coal industry in the future; and

23           (7) Urge and request the executive and legislative branches of  
24 the federal government to adopt policies that preserve and enhance the  
25 diversity of resources used in the production of electricity, including  
26 coal, to ensure our continued national and economic security.