

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-first Legislature
First Regular Session
2013

SCR 1012

Introduced by
Senators Griffin, Burges, Murphy, Shooter; Representatives Gowan, Stevens:
Senators Barto, Melvin, Pierce

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO REDUCE REGIONAL HAZE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, in July 2012 the United States Environmental Protection Agency
2 (EPA) announced its rejection of the State of Arizona's federally mandated
3 State Implementation Plan (SIP) for regional haze; and

4 Whereas, the EPA specifically rejected Arizona's plan to reduce
5 nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions at three coal-burning power plants near
6 Holbrook, St. Johns and Benson, Arizona; and

7 Whereas, the EPA put forward a Federal Implementation Plan in place of
8 the State Implementation Plan and mandated that the three coal-burning plants
9 reduce their emissions of NOx to unprecedented levels; and

10 Whereas, the EPA plan will require the installation of selective
11 catalytic reduction (SCR) technology, costing three Arizona utilities
12 hundreds of millions of dollars; and

13 Whereas, the EPA justified its new regulations by claiming that the
14 regulations were necessary to reduce regional haze; and

15 Whereas, Arizona utilities had already agreed to implement the state
16 plan, including installation of low-NOx burners and other technology that
17 would have significantly reduced regional haze at a sustainable cost; and

18 Whereas, SCR technology makes no visible improvement in regional haze
19 compared to technology the utilities have already agreed to implement under
20 Arizona's plan; and

21 Whereas, reducing NOx emissions has no impact on public health; and

22 Whereas, in August, the EPA held three public hearings in Phoenix,
23 Holbrook and Benson to solicit feedback on the agency's plan; and

24 Whereas, hundreds of Arizona residents attended the three public
25 hearings and overwhelmingly voiced their vehement opposition to the EPA
26 proposal; and

27 Whereas, if the EPA's plan is implemented, the cost of installing new
28 SCR technology may force Arizona's utilities to shut one or more units at
29 their generating facilities, leading to job losses and a reduction in
30 property tax revenue for local schools and public safety; and

31 Whereas, if the EPA's plan is implemented, the cost of installing new
32 SCR technology may force Arizona's utilities to purchase electricity on the
33 open market at much higher cost to Arizona consumers; and

34 Whereas, if the EPA's plan is implemented, the cost of installing new
35 SCR technology may force Arizona's utilities to dramatically increase utility
36 rates, putting Arizona at a competitive disadvantage in its effort to attract
37 new employers; and

38 Whereas, the EPA's plan will negatively affect the economy of the local
39 area and the entire State of Arizona as well.

40 Therefore

41 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
42 Representatives concurring:

43 That the Members of the Legislature express opposition to the Federal
44 Implementation Plan being forced on the state and we support the State
45 Implementation Plan as a reasonable and viable solution to address and reduce
46 regional haze.