

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1012

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, the federal regional haze rule is designed to address
22 visibility objectives and not public health; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 Therefore

42 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of

43 Representatives concurring:

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