



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Finchem Thanks Arizona Senate for Passage of Navajo Generating Station Tax Repeal

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Mark Finchem (R-11) today thanked his colleagues in the Arizona Senate for passing [HB 2003](#), a bill to repeal the unjust, and some might say illegal, tax on coal mined in Arizona and used by Navajo Generating Station to produce as much as 2250 megawatts of electricity.

“It is important that we have an ‘all of the above’ energy generation plan in Arizona,” said Representative Finchem. **“Solar and wind have been subsidized heavily by American taxpayers for years, while coal has suffered the drag of a punitive tax at the same time. Some have said that coal is not an economically viable feedstock for electric generation; that is a self-fulfilling prophecy that serves special interest groups.”**

The laying of Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT), as a matter of policy, is designed to tax finished products, not raw materials. Consumers pay a tax on the electricity they consume in both residential and commercial uses. The removal of TPT on coal restores the policy objective and returns coal to a more competitive stature amongst fuels.

“I am pleased to have sponsored this legislation in the Senate and I am thrilled that this much-needed legislation was passed, as I believe this is an important component in the effort to save over 800 jobs in northern Arizona, mostly jobs held by members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe,” said Senator Steve Smith (R-11).

“During testimony in Washington D.C., last week, I made the case that Navajo Generating Station was commissioned by Congress with a specific end of life date, and it will take an act of Congress to change the decommissioning date,” said Representative Finchem. **“With that, the ratepayers in Arizona and other states served by the western U.S. grid deserve the lowest cost and most dependable baseload power available. After all, they put up the money to build the plant in the first place. They deserve the full measure of benefit for their investment without being taxed again.”**

The bill has been sent to Governor Ducey for his signature.

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