

Beulah Chamber of Commerce Statement

*ND Department of Health
Development of State Plan related to EPA's Clean Power Plan
November 12, 2015
Beulah Civic Center*

The EPA has exceeded their authority with rule 111(D) the Clean Power Plan. The consequences of this plan are immediate and irreparable – thousands of lost jobs, significant decreases in school funding, higher costs for energy and an unreliable energy grid. It is irresponsible of the EPA to suggest closing high performing coal plants in favor of less reliable and more expensive wind and solar power. Coal is essentially the most affordable and abundant fuel used to generate electricity in the U.S.

These rules are deceptive, in that they claim to provide states with a “choice” in devising new energy approaches. However, there is little real choice when state policies are in fact compelled by the EPA.

The Beulah Chamber of Commerce urges the ND Department of Health to work to develop a state-wide plan. North Dakota has done an impeccable job of regulating environmental and health related issues within the borders of the state. We need to continue down that path of North Dakotans taking care of North Dakota.

In addition, the state plan needs to include methods to handle the significant increases in energy costs and demands. Those higher costs will undoubtedly be passed on to consumers, small businesses and individuals alike. Who all stand to suffer, especially those on fixed incomes. There needs to be analysis and discussion on how to cope with a decrease in supply, while North Dakota's energy demands continue to increase.

While we do not have answers to this complex issue, we encourage the Department of Health to continue to work with energy and coal industry experts, who have a proven record of being dedicated stewards of the land. Development a plan that works in a dynamic environment is essential. It needs to be fluid, efficient and responsive to the needs of North Dakotans. In addition to supporting the development of a state implementation plan, the Beulah Chamber of Commerce also supports North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem's pursuit of legal action to stop the EPA from implementing regulations that will cause immeasurable harm to not only our community but our entire state.

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