HAZEN
A proud heritage - A promising future

146 Main Street E. Box 717 Hazen, North Dakota 58545
Phone (701) 748-2550 Fax 748-2559
Email hazennd@westriv.com

City of Hazen, Mercer County North Dakota
Resolution in
Opposition to the 111 (D) EPA rule

WHEREAS, over the course of the 2013-15 biennium, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has proposed regulations that would enact a de facto ban on the construction of new, efficient, and cost-effective coal-fired power plants, and threaten the continued operation of existing coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, in November 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency proposed to further reduce the standard for ambient ozone to levels that could restrict North Dakota's energy industry and impede economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement continues to explore a new regulation 111(D) that could significantly restrict access to North Dakota's coal resources and place North Dakota mines in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, in September 2013, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals released an opinion upholding the authority of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reject the State of North Dakota's plan to reduce regional haze; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan is estimated to increase North Dakota resident's average electricity and gas bills $700 by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's proposed regulations for carbon dioxide emissions from new and existing coal-fired power plants go beyond the authority provided by existing federal statutes; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota lignite industry employs over 17,000 individuals in the state, and contributes over $3 billion in economic activity in North Dakota each year; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota lignite industry generates enough electricity to power over 2 million homes in the Northern Great Plains, supplies synthetic natural gas to 400,000 homes and businesses, and produces numerous beneficial byproducts; and

WHEREAS, if the federal government continues to issue regulations and administrative actions that are not based on sound science, economic, and technological reality, it will have significant impact on consumer electricity costs, and the North Dakota lignite industry will struggle to provide low-cost, reliable electricity; and

Whereas, the City of Hazen, Mercer County North Dakota urges the federal government to work with the state, the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the North Dakota lignite industry to design and implement regulatory programs that are based on sound science, recognize the status of existing technology and development timelines, and that make economic sense for the producers and consumers of North Dakota lignite;

Be it hereby resolved that the United States Environmental Protection Agency refrain from finalizing regulations for carbon dioxide emission standards which requires new coal-fired power plants to meet an emission standard that is not achievable with current commercial technology, and which prematurely requires retirement or curtailment of existing coal-fired power plants.

Approved this 2nd day of November, 2015.

Commissioners present: President Obenauer, Commissioner Wolf, Commissioner Brunmeier, Commissioner Stern.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Haack.

Vote in Favor 4
Vote Against 0

City Commission:

Jerry Obenauer, President

Attest:

Monte Erhardt, Hazen City Auditor