

OLIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Oliver County North Dakota

RESOLUTION 2015-1
DECLARING OPPOSITION TO EPA RULE 111(D)

WHEREAS, the Oliver County Board of County Commissioners ("Oliver County") is familiar with the Final Rule Promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") entitled Carbon Pollution Emissions Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units, 80 Fed. Reg. 64662 (October 23, 2015) (also commonly referred to as "EPA Rule 111(D)"); and

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

WHEREAS, the North Dakota lignite industry generates enough electricity to power over two million homes in the Northern Great Plains region; and

WHEREAS, Oliver County is in the heart of the coal energy production area with a major lignite mine (BNI Coal, LTD) and two coal fired electric generating plants (operated by Minnkota Power and Minnesota Power and Light); and

WHEREAS, the coal energy industry expanded into this area several decades ago, and many people relocated to Oliver County in the late 1970's and early 1980's for the employment associated therewith, and the citizens of the County and the State of North Dakota rely upon the good jobs and high quality of life that's been brought about by the industry; and

WHEREAS, Oliver County suffered significant impact to its roads, infrastructure, and other areas of government through this development, most of which were provided for with "in lieu of" severance and conversion taxes paid by the coal energy industry; and

WHEREAS, the lignite electrical generating plants have invested many millions of dollars over the years to significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, effectively improving the quality of life of the people in our region while still fulfilling the electrical needs of consumers in the region; and

WHEREAS, the EPA initially proposed a requirement of an 11% reduction in carbon dioxide emission from existing power plants within North Dakota, but now, through Proposed Rule 111(D), seeks a requirement of 45% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions; and

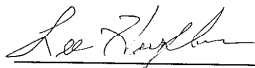
WHEREAS, the proposed EPA Rule with the 45% reduction requirement would close electrical generating plants and mines in the area, which would result in a massive reduction in high quality jobs and cause irreparable harm to Oliver County and the quality of life for the people of the County and the state of North Dakota,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Oliver County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of Oliver County, North Dakota, that it hereby declares its opposition to the proposed EPA Rule 111(D) that would require a 45% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions for existing coal fired power plants in North Dakota;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oliver County Board of County Commissioners pleads for restraint by the EPA and asks that the EPA refrain from finalizing the proposed emission requirements for existing coal fired power plants in North Dakota; such requirements and standards are not achievable with current commercial technology and would result in premature retirement or curtailment of existing coal fired power plants, causing irreparable harm to the people of the area, the employees of the industry, and the consumers of electricity throughout the upper Midwest.

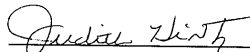
The foregoing Resolution was moved by Commissioner Blake Wilkens and seconded by Commissioner Darrell Berger; upon roll call vote, Commissioners Berger, Wilkens, and Husfloen voting in favor, none against, the Resolution was declared duly passed this 5th day of November, 2015.

OLIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:



Lee Husfloen, Chairman

ATTEST:



Judy Hintz, Oliver County Auditor