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JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HYDROGEN POWER FROM ADVANCED COAL AND CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION TECHNOLOGY

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Patrick Painter

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature supports producing hydrogen from coal with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- expresses support for producing hydrogen from coal with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology as a means of potentially strengthening Utah's economy and keeping Utah at the forefront of energy production; and
- urges the Public Service Commission to consider authorizing recovery of cost-effective and prudently incurred costs from advanced coal and CCS technology incorporated into future power plants.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, coal is one of Utah's most abundant resources and contributes substantially to Utah's economy;

WHEREAS, coal is an affordable base load fuel providing reliable electric power;

WHEREAS, demonstration of advanced coal technology for power generation can accelerate the development of the hydrogen energy economy in Utah;

WHEREAS, producing hydrogen from coal with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) for newly permitted developments is one possible technology, among many, that has the potential to reduce carbon emissions and help protect and grow Utah's economy while continuing a strong commitment to a clean environment;

WHEREAS, advanced hydrogen from coal technology and CCS technology as proposed for potential next generation power plants in Utah would produce fewer carbon emissions than conventionally fueled power plants;

WHEREAS, the new advanced coal technology gasifies coal to produce a mixture of carbon dioxide, hydrogen, and other gases;

WHEREAS, the clean burning hydrogen can be used to fuel a power plant and the carbon dioxide can be captured and stored using geologic sequestration technology;

WHEREAS, CCS technology provides for the removal of carbon dioxide from fuel gases, reducing emission into the atmosphere;

WHEREAS, CCS technology will be crucial to reducing emission of carbon dioxide from newly permitted power plants specifically designed to use CCS technology while still meeting growing energy demand in a responsible manner with domestic fuel;

WHEREAS, CCS technology can be important to maintain Utah's position as a leader in energy technology and production;

WHEREAS, CCS technology will enable Utah to use its abundant coal resources while still meeting potential new regulations limiting carbon emissions and protecting and creating high-paying jobs in Utah;

WHEREAS, Utah's geological characteristics support sequestration technology;

WHEREAS, Utah is uniquely positioned to potentially lead and benefit from hydrogen production from coal and CCS technology;

WHEREAS, Utah's support of producing hydrogen from coal and CCS technology could place Utah businesses at the forefront of the new hydrogen and carbon economies;

WHEREAS, the state welcomes the potential jobs, tax base, economic enhancements, and leadership position that could come with supporting advanced coal technology with CCS;

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission should consider authorizing the recovery of cost-effective and prudently incurred costs that reduce carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission should consider hydrogen production from coal and CCS technology to be a reasonable investment for protecting the long-term interests of Utah's utility rate payers;

WHEREAS, the Legislature supports approving cost recovery of cost-effective and prudent investment in these technologies as determined by the Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature supports resolving liability issues stemming from unlikely future adverse effects of sequestered carbon and believes the federal government is in the best position to provide a comprehensive liability solution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah expresses support for producing hydrogen production from coal with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology as a means of strengthening Utah's economy and helping Utah to stand at the forefront of energy production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Public Service Commission to consider authorizing recovery of cost-effective and prudently incurred costs that reduce carbon emissions and increase Utah's and the nation's energy security.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recommends that the Public Service Commission consider hydrogen production from coal and CCS technology to be a reasonable investment for protecting the long-term interests of Utah's utility rate payers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports approving cost recovery of cost-effective and prudent investment in these technologies as determined by the Public Service Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports balanced consideration and research to explore all technologies that will continue to maximize future use and availability of coal and gas in an environmentally sound manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's Energy

Advisor, the State Energy Program, the Public Service Commission, and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.