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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new environmental rules concerning mercury pollution from coal-fired electric plants; and

WHEREAS, These new rules are detrimental to the nation and the State of Illinois as well; and

WHEREAS, These new rules mandate that pollution control equipment be installed in 80% of the plants that burn coal from the Eastern regions of the nation, as well as the State of Illinois; the same rules require the same equipment be installed in only 30% of the plants that burn coal from Western states; and

WHEREAS, As a consequence of these new rules, the federal government will encourage utilities to burn Western coal rather than Illinois coal; and

WHEREAS, These new rules will trigger a loss of jobs in the Illinois coal industry, where many working families depend upon the industry for their livelihood; and

WHEREAS, These new rules will promote greater levels of pollution because the sub-bituminous coal mined from the Western regions of the country contains more mercury than the bituminous coal mined from Illinois; and

WHEREAS, In pursuing the goal to create a healthier environment, the federal government should not favor the more polluted coal from one region of the country over the less polluted coal from another; therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its  
2 proposed rules concerning mercury pollution from coal-fired  
3 electric plants and to hold all types of coal to the same  
4 emission standards; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
6 delivered to the President of the United States, the Secretary  
7 of the Interior, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental  
8 Protection Agency, and each member of the Illinois  
9 congressional delegation.