

1 H JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31
 2 INTRODUCED BY Falvey
 3 BY REQUEST OF
 4 THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

5
 6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE
 8 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION EVALUATE
 9 EXISTING AND ONGOING STUDIES OF COAL SLURRY PIPELINES AND
 10 MAKE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE 46th LEGISLATURE OF
 11 THE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO MONTANA OF USING WATER FOR THE
 12 PURPOSE OF EXPORTING COAL VIA SLURRY PIPELINE.

13
 14 WHEREAS, the Legislature approves of the concept that
 15 existing rail transportation facilities be used to their
 16 maximum capacity to deliver coal to out-of-state markets;
 17 and

18 WHEREAS, the rail system in Montana, even with
 19 improvements such as double tracking and centralized,
 20 automated controls is finite in its capacity to haul coal
 21 without the construction of new lines; and

22 WHEREAS, a definite possibility exists that in the near
 23 future coal mining will expand to the point where the rail
 24 system will reach capacity, and at or before that point a
 25 decision will have to be made between:

- 1 (1) expanding the rail system by constructing new
- 2 lines;
- 3 (2) converting the coal to electricity or synthetic
- 4 fuels in Montana;
- 5 (3) exporting coal by slurry pipelines; or
- 6 (4) restricting mining to that level of rail capacity
- 7 and the amount of use in what has been determined to be the
- 8 desirable level of instate conversion; and

9 WHEREAS, through existing or ongoing studies the basic
 10 social, economic, and environmental impacts of rail
 11 transportation and conversion facilities is understood,
 12 little is known about the effects of slurry pipelines;

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature considers it necessary to have
 14 at its disposal all possible information in order to decide
 15 the wisest course of action regarding coal slurry pipelines.

16
 17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 18 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

19 That the Department of Natural Resources and
 20 Conservation is directed to evaluate existing and ongoing
 21 studies of slurry pipelines and make a report and
 22 recommendation to the 46th Legislature of the costs and
 23 benefits to Montana of using water for exporting coal via
 24 coal slurry pipeline.

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