

**CLEAN AIR – CLEAN JOBS?  
BETTER THINK TWICE--DON'T ROLL THE DICE**

The so-called Clean Air-Clean Jobs bill is a dangerous gamble for Colorado's energy future, one that would reduce utility's coal fleet by 50%, taking with it the royalties and taxes paid by the coal industry, which in 2008 exceeded \$150 million, and which support public schools state, and local governments.

- The cost of producing electricity from natural gas combined cycle plants is about 300% more expensive than electricity produced from existing coal plants.
- Coal currently accounts for about 65% of the electricity generated in Colorado, a key reason Colorado's electricity prices are lower than states that rely on natural gas such as California and Massachusetts.
- Switching from coal to natural gas would cost coal jobs – two of the target plants are fueled by Colorado coal mines.
- The coal industry provides direct employment for 2450 people whose wages and benefits exceed \$96,000 per year. These jobs are in rural communities that rely on the coal industry's contribution to the local economy and the integral role played by coal industry employees within the communities.
- Coal industry taxes and royalties (state and federal, which are shared with the state)
- Jobs losses could occur in other industries such as rail, manufacturing, and utilities which are either dependent on coal or rely on low cost electricity.
- There is no assurance that the gas supplied to the plants would come from Colorado or that the jobs would remain here.
- Coal is abundant and affordable as a fuel for generating electricity. The United States has 28% of the world's coal, while Colorado contains coal reserves of 16 billion tons – more than enough to provide fuel for 250 years. With the development of new technologies for cleaner, more efficient coal power generation, coal can and should remain a viable fuel far into the future.
- The legislation purports to be necessary to meet federal standards not yet promulgated.

We urge your opposition to this risky strategy – energy mandates are a high-risk game!

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