

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

INTRODUCED BY G. KMETZ

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING INCREASED TRANSMISSION CAPACITY IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, Over the last 100 years, Montana's electrical grid has developed and evolved, but additional electrical transmission infrastructure development is needed; and

WHEREAS, electric transmission infrastructure must be updated to keep pace with modern technological developments to better serve the energy needs of the state; and

WHEREAS, lack of access to lower-cost power in Montana has already resulted in the loss of large industrial employers; and

WHEREAS, increased electric transmission capacity within Montana and across state borders will enable greater investments to foster a diversified, resilient, and affordable electric grid; and

WHEREAS, updating Montana's electric transmission infrastructure is essential to unlocking the state's energy development potential, ensuring electric grid reliability, and addressing current constrictions that hinder energy imports, exports, and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has estimated that every dollar invested into improving the electric transmission system will produce between \$1.60 and \$1.80 in cost savings to the system; and

WHEREAS, electric transmission projects are particularly beneficial to Montanans when they prioritize the use of skilled Montana-based labor; and

WHEREAS, transmission infrastructure not only unlocks tremendous economic benefits but also creates direct tax revenues for local and state governments; and

WHEREAS, in addition to building new transmission lines, reconductoring existing transmission lines with modern wiring and grid-enhancing technologies can produce system benefits at lower upfront costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

1 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Legislature understands that upgrading and expanding electric transmission infrastructure
3 both within Montana and on transmission pathways across state borders is essential to ensure affordable and
4 reliable electricity service in Montana. Affordable and reliable electricity service has been and will continue to be
5 fundamental for stable economic growth.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Montana, the
7 Governors of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho, members of the Montana Public Service
8 Commission, the Montana Rural Electric Cooperatives' Association, the Bonneville Power Administration,
9 NorthWestern Energy, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, and members of the Montana Congressional
10 Delegation.

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