

Short Title: Powering the Future with Coal

Paragraph: Powering the Future with Coal: Coal provides over half of America's electricity. With enough domestic coal to meet our needs for the next 250 years, coal is America's most plentiful and least costly electricity source. Funding for clean coal technologies research and deployment, access to federal lands and balanced environmental policies will affect our ability to use coal.

Description: Powering the Future with Coal

America needs affordable and reliable energy to maintain economic growth and ensure our national security. Laws and regulations should provide for efficient and cost effective development, production and use of diverse domestic energy resources while maintaining and improving environmental quality.

Because our economy will demand 50 percent more electricity over the next three decades than it does today—with coal projected to supply over half that demand—our elected officials must pass comprehensive energy legislation that will promote the use of coal, our most abundant and least costly domestic energy resource. They need to do the following:

- Support Research and Development for Clean Coal Technologies: These are government-industry research partnerships that have a proven track record of finding cost-effective and energy efficient ways of generating electricity from coal with lower emissions.
- Provide Investment and Production Tax Credits for Clean Coal Technologies: Incentives are needed to offset the financial risks power generators face with the early commercial application of advanced clean coal technologies. These incentives can also assist in meeting the costs of repowering existing coal based plants with new technologies to achieve better efficiency and environmental improvements. These incentives will become even more important as existing power plants strive to meet the more stringent environmental controls that have been proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Update Coal Leasing Provisions of Federal Law: Much of America's coal is found on lands owned by the federal government. The laws that govern how that land can be leased and mined for coal need to be updated to reflect changes in market conditions and production technology. The Department of the Interior, which regulates coal leases on federal lands, needs more flexibility to ensure coal reserves will not be wasted, state and federal income from these leases will be maximized, and coal-based electricity can remain affordable for businesses and consumers.
- Support Balanced Environmental Policies: Significant strides have been made in making the air cleaner as we produce even more electricity from

coal. And a new generation of environmental controls for electricity generators has been proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Congress has considered additional options.

We can meet America's energy needs if we support balanced environmental policies that are based on proven and commercially available technologies--policies that use market forces to achieve the greatest result at the least cost to electricity users. Policies that set unachievable and inflexible requirements harm our economy, threaten US jobs and raise prices for consumers. Examples of harmful proposals include:

- Mandatory requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., carbon dioxide, methane) or commit the US to adopt climate policies akin to those in the Kyoto Protocol on Climate;
- Standards that force utilities to build capacity that may be uneconomic and impractical to produce electricity from renewable sources; and
- Requirements to control emissions of mercury that are beyond the capability of proven technology or that will make it impossible for utilities to use coal from one or more regions of the country.

Your elected officials need to hear that our economy needs comprehensive energy legislation that promotes low cost, reliable energy from coal.

To see how much of the electricity produced in your state comes from coal [http://www.nma.org/statistics/latest\\_pop/coal\\_cost\\_map02.html](http://www.nma.org/statistics/latest_pop/coal_cost_map02.html)

To find out more about Powering the Future with Coal, contact the National Mining Association, [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org)