

# ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014

## COMMITTEE STATEMENT

### LR482

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**Hearing Date:** Monday March 31, 2014

**Committee On:** Natural Resources

**Introducer:** Carlson

**One Liner:** Urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of Nebraska and other states and to rely on state regulators to develop performance standards

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Report to the Legislature for further consideration

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 6 Senators Brasch, Carlson, Johnson, Kolowski, Schilz, Smith

**Nay:** 1 Senator Haar

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:** 1 Senator Dubas

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**Proponents:**

Senator Tom Carlson

Bob Borgeson

Jeff Davis

Steve Nelson

Kelli O'Brien

Pat Pope

Dan Mauk

**Representing:**

Introducer

SMART-TD

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad

Nebraska Farm Bureau

Union Pacific Railroad

Nebraska Power Association; Nebraska State Chamber

North Platte Chamber

**Opponents:**

Kimberly Morrow

Ben Gotschall

**Representing:**

Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light

Self

**Neutral:**

Eric Thompson

**Representing:**

Bureau of Business Research

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LR 482 requests that the Environmental Protection Agency allow states to set less stringent emission standards for coal-fueled power plants than the EPA might otherwise set. This request is in response to a June, 2013, directive from President Obama stating that the states should play a central role in establishing such guidelines.

It is important that Nebraska be allowed to enter into these important emission standards given that two-thirds of our electric utility production relies on coal powered plants. There is also a strong railroad presence in our state that carries much of that coal from the mining regions. Therefore, it is also an economic development issue.

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Tom Carlson, Chairperson