HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

INTRODUCED BY D. SKATTUM

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING MONTANA'S GOVERNOR TO WITHDRAW MONTANA FROM THE WESTERN CLIMATE INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, there has been no credible economic analysis of the costs associated with carbon-reduction mandates and the consequences of increasing the cost of doing business in Montana; and

WHEREAS, forcing business, industry, and food producers to reduce carbon emissions through government mandates and cap-and-trade policies under consideration by the regional climate initiative will increase the cost of doing business, push companies to do business with other states or nations, and increase consumer costs for electricity, fuel, and food; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office warns that the cost of cap-and-trade policies will be borne by consumers and will place a disproportionately high burden on poorer families; and

WHEREAS, simply reducing carbon emissions in Montana or in the western United States will not have a significant impact on international carbon reduction, especially while countries like China, Russia, Mexico, and India emit an ever-increasing amount of carbon into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous amount of economic growth would be sacrificed for a reduction in carbon emissions that would have no appreciable impact on global concentrations of carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, no state or nation has enhanced economic opportunities for its citizens or increased gross domestic product through cap-and-trade or other carbon-reduction policies; and

WHEREAS, Europe's cap-and-trade system has been undermined by political favoritism and accounting tricks and has failed to achieve carbon-reduction targets.

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

That the Montana Legislature urges the Governor to withdraw Montana from the Western Climate Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Governor

of Montana, the Western Governors' Association, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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