

Every business in Coal Country depends on Lignite in a direct or indirect way. If they have a loss of business, they won't need as many workers, meaning layoffs....and so on. A study indicates that this plan could cost the U. S. \$300 Billion by 2030. As you can see, this is a very costly plan, with many far reaching effects. I urge you to let your feelings be known. North Dakota is currently one of only 7 states that meet all Federal ambient air quality standards, but yet they want us to reduce our Co2 emissions by 45 %? We need a common sense plan that will not put our power plants and coal mines out of business, and will not put an undue and expensive burden on the citizens of this great state of ours. Thank you all for coming tonight to show your support for a common sense solution.

Most of us here tonight have family, friends and or neighbors employed in the lignite industry. The lignite industry employs nearly 16,000 people in North Dakota, many of them right here in coal country. Coal severance and conversion taxes returned over \$13 MILLION to coal producing counties in 2014. This money goes to counties general funds, schools and cities. If this were to go away, how would this loss be made up? It is estimated that the Clean Power Plan will increase North Dakotan's annual electricity cost by 43%. Many of our citizens simply cannot afford this type of increase. If a business experiences this increase, it will become a cost of doing business, which is then passed on to the consumer.