

***POLICY POSITION
OF THE
SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE***

REGARDING THE EPA'S PROPOSED CO2 STANDARDS

BACKGROUND

Since 2005, the United States has reduced its total greenhouse gas emissions more than any other industrialized. Indeed, from 2011 to 2012, remarkable trends have been seen in the top three emitting countries/regions, which account for 55 percent of total global CO2 emissions. In China, emissions increased by 3 percent while in the United States emissions decreased by 4 percent and the European Union as a whole saw a decrease of 1.6 percent. Under the current United States administration, coal has been included in the "all of the above" energy portfolio. However, the CO2 emission standards proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 2, 2014 could result in decreasing interest in the utilization of coal as part of our nation's energy future.

One way to combat this is through the promotion and funding of carbon capture and sequestration technology. Bringing carbon capture and sequestration to the marketplace is a costly enterprise. Further research and development leading to commercialization is essential to continuing the progress of such facilities as Plant Barry in Alabama, the largest Carbon capture and sequestration effort so far.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments urges the Department of Energy to provide funding to further develop carbon capture and sequestration technology essential to ensuring that coal remains a vital and competitive asset in the United States' energy portfolio. Doing so will also ensure that the United States continues to be an international leader in greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments requests that a copy of this policy position be forwarded to the Southern Congressional delegation, secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the president of the United States.