

Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO. 6 GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Concern about global climate change has accelerated, leading to strong efforts to enact federal and state policies to reduce man-made emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide from burning coal. Because the electric industry in general and electric cooperatives in particular rely heavily on coal for base load electric generation, poorly designed policies would cause substantial harm to electric consumers without measurable benefits in stabilizing or reducing global warming. We must assess the costs of current proposed global climate change legislation that has the potential to double wholesale coal-based electricity rates. To address climate change responsibly, we strongly endorse the following principles to guide climate change policy:

- Emission reduction requirements must be directed to all sectors of the economy.
- Emission reduction plans must be based on international understandings and agreements that ensure other nations, including both developed and developing nations, participate.
- The emission reduction targets must be achievable and timed with the advancement and commercialization of technologies.
- Emission reduction proposals, such as cap and trade plans, must include an economic safety valve, to avoid excessive financial hardships, market manipulation, or large price swings.
- Fuel diversity should be encouraged to avoid reliance on a few sources of electricity, which will limit competition and create higher prices. This means nuclear energy and coal with carbon capture and storage, must be part of our nation's energy future, together with hydropower and other renewable energy, such as wind and solar power.
- Early adopters should receive credit for efforts made in CO₂ captured and sequestered before climate change policy is enacted.
- New laws and regulations should be prospective rather than retroactive in application.