



Resolution Honoring 100 Year Anniversary of Colstrip

WHEREAS, the town of Colstrip, Montana, was founded in 1924 when the Northern Pacific Railroad started mining coal from the Rosebud Mine to fuel their steam locomotives; and

WHEREAS, Colstrip is the home of the Rosebud Mine, which is part of the Fort Union Formation, a geological unit containing sandstones, shales, and coal beds in Montana and Wyoming, that dates from the early Paleocene epoch, some 65 million years ago; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Colstrip's Rosebud Mine was identified as strategically important because it supplied coal for the Northern Pacific Railway steam locomotives hauling military equipment for the war effort, and the workers of Colstrip helped to safeguard the mine against sabotage efforts; and

WHEREAS, Colstrip is known as the "energy capital of Montana" and ensures grid stability and accessible energy for Montanans; and

WHEREAS, the power plants of Colstrip were built in the 1970s and 1980s by workers across the state and ushered in a period of economic prosperity that made Colstrip a boomtown; and

WHEREAS, the coal fields and energy plants of Colstrip do and have employed thousands of union workers and the working men and women of Colstrip have added tremendous wealth to the state over the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, today, Colstrip not only powers our state, but also home to a closely knit community with over 2,000 citizens and is the largest city in Rosebud County; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Labor Movement has advocated for the future prosperity of Colstrip and the preservation of jobs that can sustain a family and ensure a dignified retirement; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Labor Movement supports growing Montana's economy with traditional and new economy high-paying jobs, the development of Montana's natural resources in an environmentally defensible manner, as well as abundant and low-cost energy for Montanans; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Colstrip will kick off a year-long celebration of its 100th anniversary in June 2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO formally recognizes the importance of Colstrip to the past, present, and future of the State of Montana.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO will work to highlight the contributions that working Montanans and unions have made to the prosperity of Colstrip and the State of Montana.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO will defend the livelihoods and pensions of the workers of Colstrip and will champion the viability of Colstrip to Montana's economy, both in the present and future.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO will oppose regulatory, legislative, and legal efforts to stymie or halt the operations of the power plants of Colstrip with no efforts to secure the employment, livelihoods, and dignified retirement of the workers of Colstrip.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Montana State AFL-CIO will continue to partner with community leaders, organizations, businesses, and interested parties to ensure the continued prosperity of Colstrip.