Adopted by the Southern States Energy Board on:

Southern States Energy Board

"Small Modular Nuclear Reactors"

WHEREAS: Small modular nuclear reactors hold the promise of helping the South and the Nation address two ongoing challenges: providing additional supplies of clean baseload energy and creating jobs;

WHEREAS: A dozen or more new small-scale reactor designs are under development in the U.S. and throughout the world which have the potential to reward innovators in the electricity sector along with applications in the broader energy sector and other industrial settings;

WHEREAS: These small reactors, typically fewer than 300 megawatts (MW), can provide utilities with flexibility with regard to affordability, scalability, plant siting and permitting while maintaining the high level of safety and security that characterizes the 104-unit U.S. fleet of large nuclear plants;

WHEREAS: Some small reactor designs employ familiar light water technology in easily transportable modular units; others are high-temperature, gas-cooled and well-suited for process heat and/or hydrogen production with direct benefits for development of North America's oil sands, oil shale and coal-to-liquids; and others are liquid metal-cooled fast reactors providing distributed generation, water purification and district heating options or can be utilized to recycle used fuel and/or consume former weapons materials to provide emission-free electricity along with the added benefits of waste reduction and reduced proliferation concerns;

WHEREAS: The United States' high-quality precision manufacturing sector is well-positioned to establish a position of world leadership in the emerging small reactor market, which is expected to be worldwide in scope, with strong prospects for export to other nations;

WHEREAS: Significant work remains to achieve design certification and to gain regulatory approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. While recognized as the "Gold Standard" worldwide, these federal licensing requirements represent a significant market barrier to designers of innovative small reactors, posing cost hurdles that are not necessarily reduced linearly with the smaller size of these nuclear plants;

WHEREAS: The Obama Administration and the Congress recognized the significant challenges and incredible economic potential of small reactor technology by providing $67 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2012 to augment private industry's efforts to make the fastest possible progress in the areas of safety and licensing, financing, and deployment of this technology.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board applauds the President's FY 2013 budget request of $65 million to continue the public/private partnership that seeks to ensure American leadership in this important emerging technology, with unlimited potential for U.S. employment opportunity, economic strength and trade.