



Adopted on September 29, 2014

Sponsored by: Senator Cam Ward of Alabama
Representative Rocky Miller of Missouri
Representative Bill Sandifer of South Carolina

5.2014 – Resolution Questioning Nuclear-Specific Provisions of U.S. EPA’s Proposed 111(d) Carbon Rule

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus throughout industry, academia, the United States government, and international organizations that zero-carbon nuclear energy is a necessary component of any meaningful strategy to reduce carbon in the electric generation sector, and nuclear energy presently generates nearly two-thirds of all carbon-free electricity in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the existing 44 reactor nuclear fleet throughout the Southern States Energy Board region, and five new reactors now under construction to come on-line in Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina by 2019, are key assets in the South’s ongoing comprehensive, multi-technology carbon reduction strategy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has recognized that maintaining the existing nuclear fleet is a cost-effective carbon abatement strategy, but the agency’s proposed carbon rule considers only six percent of the carbon-free electricity produced by a state’s existing nuclear power plants and would not count the output of nuclear reactors now under construction in the U.S., all of which are being built in the South; and

WHEREAS, EPA’s proposal counts all renewable electricity production regardless of when it was placed into service, but ignores 94 percent of existing nuclear plant electricity production and all hydroelectric plant production.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Southern States Energy Board call on U.S. EPA to treat all sources of non-carbon generation equally and recognize that nuclear energy is critical to any national carbon reduction strategy so that states have sufficient incentive to preserve existing nuclear capacity and build new reactors.