



Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

7.2016 | Resolution Encouraging Resource Conservation, Preservation and Recovery of Coal Combustion Products

WHEREAS, the US Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) establishes an objective to conserve valuable material and energy resources by promoting the demonstration, construction and application of solid waste management, and resource recovery, and resource conservation systems which preserve and enhance the quality of air, water and land resources; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of coal for energy production has provided reliable and inexpensive electricity to meet the energy needs of the US; and

WHEREAS, the burning of coal generates both coal combustion by-products and co-products (CCPs) which include fly ash, bottom ash and flue gas desulfurization materials, all which have material economic value as minerals to the US economy; and

WHEREAS, the CCPs generated by the energy production industry also contain rare earth elements which are strategic to the US defense and economy; and

WHEREAS, the recovery and use of CCPs as substitutes for mined minerals provides reduced costs of America's transportation infrastructure, commercial, industrial and residential construction industries; and

WHEREAS, the use of CCPs as a substitute for native mined resources reduces energy consumption, preserves natural resources and enhances the quality of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the use of recovered CCPs as a recovered mineral resource assists each state and America in reducing and/or controlling the costs of highways, bridges and infrastructure construction while improving the life cycle costs; and

WHEREAS, the future availability and preservation of access to the vast mineral resources in coal ash to meet the mineral and strategic elements needs of the US economy may be jeopardized by current US energy and environmental regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board urges Congress to propose and adopt legislation which recognizes the importance of CCPs as a strategic mineral resource, encourages the recovery of the resource value, preserves future access to the CCPs produced or stored in impoundments or landfills for reclamation and recovery consistent with the energy and resource conservation objectives of RCRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges state legislatures to ensure that state laws and regulations maintain state authority to regulate and control CCP disposal, maintain exemptions for beneficial use and protect the value of CCP resources by supporting current and future recovery and beneficial use of CCPs in accordance with the policy objectives found within the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.