



Unanimously Adopted on September 25, 2017

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

7.2017 | Encouraging Resource Conservation, Preservation and Recovery of Coal Combustion Products

WHEREAS, the U.S. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) establishes a national goal to conserve valuable materials 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 United States; and

WHEREAS, the burning of coal generates coal combustion products (CCPs) that have material economic value as minerals for the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, RCRA provides for regulation of the disposal of coal combustions residuals and an exemption for beneficial use of the resource value of CCPs; and

WHEREAS, the CCPs generated by the energy production industry also contain rare earth elements which are strategic to the U.S. 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 consistent with the national goals of RCRA; and

WHEREAS, the use of 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board urges Congress to propose and adopt legislation which expands the federal funding of research and development and pilot plant demonstration for technologies that can economically extract rare earth elements from CCPs and provide for increased utilization of CCPs in federally funded infrastructure projects consistent with the energy and resource conservation goals of RCRA.