



Unanimously Adopted on September 25, 2017

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

## **8.2017 | Enhancing Electric Grid Stability and Incentivizing Carbon Emissions Reduction Through Improved Efficiency Base Load Coal Units**

**WHEREAS**, the United States is blessed with an abundance of energy resources with specific regions capable of supplying energy types that are most abundant within each state; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States should promote the development of energy sources that supply the most reliable and competitive production within states and their respective regions; and

**WHEREAS**, a secure, reliable and resilient power grid is critical to the economic foundation and the security of the U.S. economy; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining a secure, reliable and resilient grid depends on successful integration of all forms of electricity generation; and

**WHEREAS**, grid stability is provided by base load generation from coal fueled power plants; and

**WHEREAS**, the common goal within states is to provide a reliable and affordable supply of electricity while reducing the carbon footprint of each type of generation; 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 United States has led the world in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and one method of reducing the carbon footprint of coal fueled electric generation is to increase the efficiency of the existing coal fleet by incentivizing construction of new High Efficiency Low Emissions (HELE) generating plants; and

**WHEREAS**, the average efficiency of the older generating units is 33 percent and newer, improved U.S. coal generating units have demonstrated a 5 percent efficiency improvement; and

**WHEREAS**, while the efficiency of coal units continues to improve in countries outside the United States with results approaching 50 percent efficient, the United States is falling behind in providing incentives for innovation in generating technologies that can improve efficiencies and reduce the carbon emissions of the next generation of coal fueled plants; and

**WHEREAS**, to keep the United States competitive as an electric energy producer and as a leader in coal fueled generation efficiency and innovation, the development of incentives is needed to promote reduced carbon emissions and deployment of carbon dioxide capture and storage/utilization technologies.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern States Energy Board urges Congress to propose and adopt legislation that recognizes the importance of improving the efficiency of coal



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fueled electricity with lower carbon emissions and encourages the development of coal generation technologies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Southern States Energy Board urges EPA to establish a streamlined permit review process for efficiency improvements at existing coal units that are demonstrated to reduce carbon dioxide emissions or provide grid stability with reliable electric generation.