



2016 Adopted Resolutions of the Southern States Energy Board

- 1.2016** **Resolution Supporting the Deployment of Advanced, Innovative Electric Transmission Technology**
Sponsored by: Senator Eddie Joe Williams, Arkansas
- 2.2016** **Resolution Supporting the Development of Advanced Carbon Emission Reduction Technologies for Power Generation**
Sponsored by: Senator Mark Norris, Tennessee
- 3.2016** **Resolution Regarding Protection of the Nation’s Electric Power Grid From Dynamic Cyber Threats**
Sponsored by: Representative Rocky Miller, Missouri*
Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma
Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia
- 4.2016** **Resolution Concerning the Combined Impacts of Future EPA Regulations for Coal-Fired Power Plants**
Sponsored by: Representative Randy Davis, Alabama
- 5.2016** **Resolution Encouraging ongoing Bipartisan Efforts to Spur Development of Advanced Nuclear Reactors and Innovative Nuclear Technologies**
Sponsored by: Senator Cam Ward, Alabama*
Senator William E. “Bill” Sandifer, South Carolina
Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia
- 6.2016** **Resolution to Encourage Clean Energy Innovations and Applications**
Sponsored by: Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia*
Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma
- 7.2016** **Resolution Encouraging Resource Conservation, Preservation and Recovery of Coal Combustion Products**
Sponsored by: Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky
- 8.2016** **Resolution Concerning the Stream Protection Rule**
Sponsored by: Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

* Originating Sponsor



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Senator Eddie Joe Williams, Arkansas

1.2016 | Resolution Supporting the Deployment of Advanced, Innovative Electric Transmission Technology

WHEREAS, a secure, reliable and resilient power grid integrating generation resources serves as a foundation of a growing economy and is critical to our national security; and

WHEREAS, regulators, policy-makers, and consumers expect generating resources and the grid to perform extremely reliably; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the nation's transmission facilities are aged and will require a replacement strategy; and

WHEREAS, environmental regulations, State renewable energy portfolio standards, State and federal tax policies, other economic factors, and technology developments are causing some electric generation resources to retire, while replacement generation, some of it fueled by intermittent resources, is being sited at other locations on the electric grid; and

WHEREAS, new innovative cost-effective transmission technologies (including, but not limited to, high-capacity/high-efficiency conductors, and compact transmission towers) are commercially available that can increase grid capacity, improve energy transfers, promote greater stability and resiliency, make more efficient use of rights-of-way, reduce transmission line losses, and help to streamline siting and construction activities; and

WHEREAS, new and advanced replacement transmission facilities can be designed to enable a wide variety of new generating resources and can address technical, environmental and aesthetic issues that might impede or limit the development and operation of these resources; and

WHEREAS, crowded utility corridors often allow little room for expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee on Energy of the state of Arkansas adopted Interim Resolution 2015-004 establishing a policy that encourages utility project developers to incorporate advanced transmission line technologies in projects and for regulators and grid operators to compare their cost- effectiveness to conventional technologies when they are proposed in projects ; and

WHEREAS, the policies of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Southern Legislative Conference representing 15 states and the Midwest Legislative Conference representing 11 states and four Canadian provinces recognize the benefits of these technologies to modernize the grid and improve generating resource integration and encourages electric utilities, grid operators and state public service commissions to consider the cost-effective use of these technologies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board encourages state legislatures and public service commissions to support utility efforts to: 1) investigate and consider new advanced transmission technologies when replacing aged transmission infrastructure; 2) evaluate new transmission technologies to determine whether they can cost effectively ensure the continued reliable delivery of electricity while providing greater capacity



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Senator Eddie Joe Williams, Arkansas

and enhanced efficiency; 3) consider the ability of these technologies to reduce environmental and visual impacts to communities; and 4) consider the ability of these and other technologies to reduce the overall cost of energy delivery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board encourages state legislatures and public service commissions to work with Regional Transmission Organizations/Independent System Operators and other planning authorities to support and encourage consideration of those cost-effective advanced electric transmission infrastructure options that can increase grid capacity, reduce transmission line losses, improve energy transfers, make efficient use of rights-of-way, improve energy efficiency and help to streamline siting and construction activities in their planning, evaluation and oversight of transmission grid development, especially by utilizing existing transmission corridors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board encourages state legislatures and public service commissions to include in their oversight of transmission facilities the consideration and promotion of the appropriate use of advanced electric transmission technologies in support of their interest in the continued provision of affordable, reliable electricity to consumers.

The Southern States Energy Board requests that a copy of this policy position be forwarded to the governors, lieutenant governors, applicable state and regional regulators including but not limited to public service commissioners, energy department directors, regional transmission operators and legislative presiding officers and energy committee chairs of the members states.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Senator Mark Norris, Tennessee

2.2016 | Resolution Supporting the Development of Advanced Carbon Emission Reduction Technologies for Power Generation

WHEREAS, since 2009, an aggressive policy of de-carbonization has been pursued by the U.S. federal government;¹ and

WHEREAS, in order to supply affordable, reliable electricity, reduce carbon emissions and grow economies throughout the world, policies that promote the adoption and deployment of carbon capture technology and carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies must be prioritized; and

WHEREAS, the current technologies of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) applied to power generation have not been adequately demonstrated to prove that they can represent the least-costly approach to achieving carbon reductions; and

WHEREAS, models suggest that the costs of meeting proposed emission limits are 138 percent less when CCS/CCUS technologies are deployed that can achieve the U.S. Department of Energy's cost and efficiency targets; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to continue funding research, development and deployment of CCUS technologies scalable to power generation applications that can be demonstrated to achieve the necessary cost and performance expectations at commercial scale; and

WHEREAS, for CCUS to become a viable, affordable, and very practical solution for fossil-fueled power generation, the research and development focus toward transformational technology development is imperative – i.e. revolutionary approaches to CO₂ separation and/or thermal efficiency improvement. Transformational technologies like Chemical Looping, Oxygen-fueled combustion, and alternative power cycles rely on fundamentally different methods of producing energy, alternate fuel-to-energy conversions, or other means of energy production that inherently separate CO₂; and

WHEREAS, these types of technologies and the materials, equipment and components to support them are showing promise at laboratory scale and if effectively developed, demonstrated and deployed can serve applications across industries that support all three fossil fuels – coal, natural gas and oil (petrochemical); and

¹ The federal government's de-carbonization policy has the potential to cost state and local governments, industry, and citizens close to \$73.4 billion in compliance costs alone. States comprising the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) are projected to see approximately 175 units of coal-based electricity retired or converted due directly to EPA policies. The loss of reliable, affordable electricity also will impact some of the SSEB states' most lucrative and highly sought-after jobs. More than 188,500 manufacturing jobs are threatened by the push to the limit carbon emissions, while coal and mining industries across the country already have sustained job losses of more than 50,000 from 2008 to 2012.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Senator Mark Norris, Tennessee

WHEREAS, current research, development and demonstration funding and risk-mitigation incentives for the necessary development and adequate commercial demonstration of transformational CCS/CCUS simply are not sufficient; and

WHEREAS, over the past nine years, the world has invested more than \$1.9 trillion in renewable energy development compared to just \$20 billion in CCS development and due to this lack of parity to these energy policies, the CCS revolution will not occur; and

WHEREAS, policies that support the utilization of carbon dioxide in the marketplace must be prioritized so that incentivizing the use of CO₂ in enhanced oil recovery, chemical manufacturing or other industrial uses will spur more private development in CCS and additional growth in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, by supporting policies to bring CCS/CCUS into greater prominence, SSEB member states can meet carbon emission reduction goals responsibly; continue to provide affordable, reliable electricity; protect our economic goals; stimulate the marketplace to better utilize and develop applications for carbon dioxide; and provide policy parity for all energy sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges policymakers at the federal level to bring parity to the energy policy of the United States by recognizing the critical role that capture and storage technologies will play in the Nation's and world's attempt to reduce carbon emissions; work expeditiously on developing long-term policies that will ensure a positive business case for the deployment of capture, storage and utilization technologies, especially for secondary users of carbon dioxide; and establish strong policy measures to significantly increase research and development resources leading to adequately demonstrated, proven, commercially available transformational carbon capture and storage technologies for fossil fuel power generation that further reduce costs and increase efficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board calls on policymakers at the federal, state and local level – in partnership with the electricity generating industry – to work collaboratively on identifying storage sites that meet the necessary characterizations of successful capture and storage projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board requests that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the member states' Congressional delegations, secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, the president of the United States, governors, and southern state energy, environmental and economic regulatory commissioners.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Rocky Miller, Missouri*
Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma
and Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia

3.2016 | Resolution Regarding Protection of the Nation's Electric Power Grid From Dynamic Cyber Threats

WHEREAS, protecting the nation's energy grid and ensuring a reliable and affordable supply of electricity are top priorities for the electric power industry and state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry is one of sixteen critical infrastructure sectors that owns or operates assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, that are considered in some cases so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety or any combination thereof; and

WHEREAS, the energy grid is a complex, interconnected network of generation, transmission, distribution, control, and communication technologies that can be impacted by natural events—including earthquakes and hurricanes - as well as by malicious events like cyber or physical attacks or a combined cyber/physical attack; and

WHEREAS, the electric and nuclear sectors have rigorous mandatory and enforceable standards developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, a government-certified standards setting body, under the oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to help protect the reliability and security of the bulk electric system assets they own and/or operate; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry also relies on close coordination and partnerships with federal law enforcement, military and security agencies to defend against hostile nation-states or other acts of war against the United States, including cyber threats; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry's partnership with the Federal government, through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, is cited by the National Infrastructure Advisory Council as the model for how critical infrastructure sectors can more effectively partner with the government; and

WHEREAS, electric companies continuously work across the industry, with other sectors, and the government – at all levels – to make the grid more secure and resilient and to improve response and recovery capabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, given interdependencies among the electric power industry, other sectors, and government, the private and public sector should continue to coordinate in planning and preparing for recovering from manmade and naturally occurring events that could disrupt electricity; and



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Rocky Miller, Missouri*
 Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma
 Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that given the dynamic nature of the cyber threats and the continued coordination of effort between critical infrastructure sectors and the federal government, states should proceed in a careful and deliberate manner to avoid unintended consequences to existing regulations, standards, efforts and initiatives when considering whether to pursue legislative or regulatory approaches to cyber issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that electric companies should continue to serve as pillars of the communities they serve and should continue to work with state and local officials to educate electric customers on the appropriate steps to be prepared in the event there is a power outage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are transmitted to governors, leadership in all state legislatures, state public utility/service commissioners and chairs of relevant state House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over energy and electricity policy in Southern States Energy Board States.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Randy Davis, Alabama

4.2016 | Resolution Concerning the Combined Impacts of Future EPA Regulations for Coal-Fired Power Plants

WHEREAS, the United States is blessed with abundant energy resources; and

WHEREAS, it is in our Nation's interest to have a diverse and balanced energy mix that takes full advantage of all of our energy resources; and

WHEREAS, a reliable and affordable electricity supply is vital to economic growth, energy security, jobs, and the overall interests of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, a diverse and balanced electricity mix includes coal, natural gas, nuclear power, and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, coal-fired power plants were responsible for generating 50 percent of U.S. electricity; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, coal-fired power plants were responsible for generating 33 percent of U.S. electricity; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) issued new energy projections on May 17; and

WHEREAS, EIA projects that, by 2040, only 18 percent of U.S. electricity will be generated by coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, more U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations could be imposed on coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, these EPA regulations include new ambient air quality standards for ozone, fine particles and sulfur dioxide; new rules addressing interstate transport of air pollutants; ongoing regional haze requirements; requirements for coal combustion residuals; and effluent limitation guidelines; and

WHEREAS, future EPA regulations are likely to cause even less fuel diversity, higher electricity prices, the retirement of more coal-fired electric generating units, further reductions in the use of coal to produce electricity, and more harm to states that rely on coal for jobs and for reliable and affordably priced electricity; and

WHEREAS, the SSEB is concerned about how EPA measures the costs and benefits of new regulation and how the EPA considers the combined potential impacts of multiple and simultaneous regulations.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Randy Davis, Alabama

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board urges EPA to analyze the combined potential impacts of its future regulations for coal-fired power plants and to share such analysis with all states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that EPA minimize such impacts on the Nation and each state as it develops each individual regulation in furtherance of its statutory mission to protect human health and the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if EPA does not analyze the combined potential impacts of its future regulations for coal-fired power plants, the United States Congress should take all necessary steps to ensure that EPA analyzes the combined potential impacts of such future regulations on the U.S. electricity sector, jobs, energy prices, individual states, and regions of the country and shares such analysis with all states.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Senator Cam Ward, Alabama
Senator William E. "Bill" Sandifer, III, South Carolina
Representative Chuck Martin, Georgia

5.2016 – Resolution Encouraging ongoing Bipartisan Efforts to Spur Development of Advanced Nuclear Reactors and Innovative Nuclear Technologies

WHEREAS, nuclear energy is a key component of the South’s enviable, reliable, diverse energy portfolio and nuclear technology must continue to evolve and modernize to meet future economic and environmental goals in the Southern States Energy Board region and throughout our Nation, and

WHEREAS, a host of foreign firms and governments already are devoting substantial intellectual and financial resources toward development of innovative reactor technologies to seize emerging markets, and

WHEREAS, current U.S. regulatory requirements and licensing procedures handicap the domestic nuclear industry’s ability to develop, test and deploy advanced large light water reactors, small modular light water reactors and advanced non-light water reactors to help meet worldwide electricity demand that is projected to grow significantly in coming decades, and

WHEREAS, sponsors in both chambers of the U.S. Congress are working on bipartisan proposals which would direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to prioritize staff resources and modernize its regulatory framework to accommodate review of a range of innovative nuclear technologies and provide a phased, risk-informed licensing process that gives policymakers, industry and investors predictability and confidence going forward.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board endorses an “all-of-the-above” nuclear future for the SSEB region and the Nation served by a responsive, efficient regulatory framework that allows for timely, cost-effective development of innovative reactor technologies that set world standards for safety and reliability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSEB supports ongoing bipartisan efforts in Congress to enact legislation to reform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in order to speed research, development and deployment of innovative reactor technologies by American industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSEB requests that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Southern Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States, the chairs and ranking members of the U.S. Senate Committees on Environment & Public Works and Energy & Natural Resources, the chairs and ranking members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committees on Energy & Commerce and Science, Space & Technology, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



Unanimously Adopted on September 26, 2016

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia*
Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma

6.2016 | Resolution to Encourage Clean Energy Innovations and Applications

WHEREAS, the mission of the Southern States Energy Board is “to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South, through innovations in energy and environmental programs, policies and technologies”; and

WHEREAS, the Southern States Energy Board bases its mission and vision on a strong and prosperous Southern region powered by clean, affordable, reliable and secure energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to develop and sustain American economic leadership by improving industrial and manufacturing processes through effective and more efficient energy technology deployment; and

WHEREAS, energy use in commercial and residential buildings represents a significant opportunity for improved efficiency and distributed resource deployment; and

WHEREAS, our transition to a global clean energy economy requires the demonstration of new technologies that employ all energy resources including renewable energy, clean coal, energy efficiency, distributed energy and oil and natural gas with protection mechanisms for our environment; and

WHEREAS, the scientific application and advancement of innovative technologies can lead to breakthroughs that provide a strategic investment in America’s energy future, modernize our infrastructure and mitigate the effects of climate challenges; and

WHEREAS, high volume process engineering, industry alignment, supply chain development, new business models and standardization will cause industry to achieve additional cost reductions resulting in the breaking down of market barriers for technology development; and

WHEREAS, the past programs, committees and coalitions of the Southern States Energy Board, from its inception in 1960, include addressing cutting edge energy issues facing its member states and territories such as alternative transportation fuels; generation of electric power from a variety of energy resources; energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industries; integration of a reliable, resilient and efficient interstate electric energy grid system; support for technologies that improve clean energy manufacturing industries; facilitation of technology development; and solid waste management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board calls on the United States Secretary of Energy to work in collaboration with the Board to expand the opportunity for clean energy technology innovations and applications in Southern states to maximize sustainable economic development for a thriving and successful future.



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.



Adopted on September 26, 2016

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

8.2016 | SSEB Resolution Concerning the Stream Protection Rule

WHEREAS, the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) supports the protection of human health, the environment and the appropriate development of our Nations' natural resources as well as reasonable, practicable and sensible efforts to manage clean air, the proper handling of waste materials and the restoration of mine lands; and

WHEREAS, under existing rules, 90 percent of all coal mines have no offsite impacts—and in many states 100 percent of the operations are free of any offsite impacts—according to the U.S. Department of Interior's oversight reports; and

WHEREAS, following a five year period of development, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) within the DOI published a proposed rule on July 19, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 44435) that addressed, among other things, the protection of streams affected by surface coal mining and reclamation operations; and

WHEREAS, the rule exceeds OSM's statutory authority and infringes on the authority and ability of states to implement SMCRA; and

WHEREAS, the rule imposes extensive monitoring and reclamation requirements without sound scientific justification; and

WHEREAS, OSM asks the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take over primary responsibility for permitting mine sites by giving the Service veto authority over every mining project. Permitting mines is the purview of OSM and state regulators, not the Fish and Wildlife service; and

WHEREAS, the rule fails to recognize critical differences between Eastern and Western mining conditions; and

WHEREAS, OSM's own internal analysis of an earlier version of the rule showed a loss of more than 7,000 high-paying jobs in 22 states. An independent analysis showed far worse impacts—with job losses approaching 80,000 people. Its impact will be felt beyond the coalfields, driving up energy costs for families and businesses; and

WHEREAS, during the five year development period of these documents, states with primacy under SMCRA attempted to engage with OSMRE either as cooperating agency states under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or as state commentators on the rule; and

WHEREAS, nine of ten states that signed an MOU with OSM to assist in the development of accurate information to determine the need or scope of the rule terminated their participation after being subjected to a four-year blackout period of any dialogue or consultation; and



Adopted on September 26, 2016

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

WHEREAS, report language accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, P.L. 114-113, enacted on December 18, 2015, included language requiring OSM to reengage the primary states in a meaningful way prior to finalizing any rulemaking; and

WHEREAS, coal mining contributes more than \$18.5 billion annually in state and federal tax revenues. The rule would reduce annual tax revenues by 15-35 percent; and

WHEREAS, The United States possesses the largest single energy resource on the globe with over 400 billion tons of demonstrated coal reserves. The proposal could sterilize two-thirds of the recoverable reserve base. More than half the underground reserves could be rendered unrecoverable—a result at direct odds with SMCRA which finds that the regulatory policies should encourage underground mining; and

WHEREAS, if the states had been given adequate opportunity to provide their policy and technical expertise through a meaningful process and had OSM welcomed that input, the rule would have better accounted for the diversity in regional and ecological conditions, impacts to state program implementation and the appropriate discretion vested by SMCRA in primary states that have been regulating coal mining operations for more than 30 years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board supports early, meaningful and substantial state involvement in the development and implementation of environmental and natural resources statutes, policies, rules, programs, reviews, budgets and strategic plans; and

BE IT FURTHERRESOLVED that the Southern States Energy Board urges the Department of Interior to withdraw its Stream Protection Rule and fully comply with the Congressional directive to work with the states, regulated industry, and other members of the public to put forth a more appropriate proposal; and

BE IT FURTHERRESOLVED that the Southern States Energy Board urges Attorneys General to engage in opposition to the rule if DOI and OSM have not engaged states in a meaningful process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southern States Energy Board urges Congress to pursue options to overturn the rule.