



Unanimously Adopted on September 25, 2017

Resolution Sponsored by: Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky*
Representative Gary Staples, Mississippi

1.2017 | Improving Energy Infrastructure Federal Permitting Efficiency

WHEREAS, economic growth and the accelerated creation of high-quality jobs in the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) region are directly linked to reliable and affordable energy produced and delivered with respect for the environment; and

WHEREAS, federal and state energy policies greatly influence the development and deployment speed of energy infrastructure projects to serve businesses and consumers in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, policymakers have a major role in establishing and efficiently applying policies that result in more predictable timelines for decisions regarding proposed projects; and

WHEREAS, permitting delays and regulatory uncertainty at the federal level can create a backlog of projects locking up and idling billions of dollars of potential investment by project sponsors; and

WHEREAS, overlapping and duplicative requirements, inconsistencies across agencies and lengthy administrative processes exist and need to be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the President issued Executive Order (EO) 13766 on January 24, 2017, Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects to streamline and expedite environmental reviews and approvals for all infrastructure projects, those that are a high priority for the Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board strongly recommends any and all actions be taken under EO 13766 by federal agencies including, but not limited to, shortening permitting times by establishing firm deadlines, conducting concurrent rather than sequential reviews and better coordinating federal and state reviews; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board strongly recommends any and all actions under EO 13766 for the federal government to provide greater transparency into the status of major permits so joint actions by federal and state agencies can be taken to focus on and resolve issues to make decisions about projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board recommends that the President take practical actions to create a one-stop permitting management process such as, but not limited to, using the existing Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council and appointing a person with direct responsibility to the White House for implementing these reforms, designating representatives from federal permitting agencies to work with this person, directing this person to collaboratively create a plan with states to better coordinate federal and state permitting efforts and timelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board communicates this resolution to the President, all heads of federal agencies involved with permitting energy infrastructure projects, the Office of Management and Budget Director, the head of the Council on Environmental Quality, congressional delegations of states in the SSEB region and appropriate state officials.