



Unanimously Adopted on September 25, 2017

Resolution sponsored by: Representative Weldon Watson, Oklahoma*
Representative Gary Staples, Mississippi

3.2017 | Modernizing and Enhancing Energy Infrastructure

WHEREAS, almost half of the energy in the United States is consumed in the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) region, and total energy consumption in member states has risen by almost 200 percent from 1960 due mainly to energy intensive industrial and manufacturing processes, increases in population and relocation of businesses; and

WHEREAS, member states have reliably met this demand with a full portfolio of generating and delivery technologies that yield affordable, stable electricity prices approximately 11 percent lower than the national average and considerably lower than many states in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, despite over a 30 percent increase in electricity consumption since 1995, member states and territories have substantially reduced sulfur dioxide and other emissions and carbon emissions have decreased over 15 percent in the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the energy sector makes substantial investments to the benefit of states, such as, but not limited to, the investor owned electric companies who serve nearly 70 percent of the Nation's industries, businesses, and residential customers contributing more than 2 percent of the Nation's real Gross Domestic Product, investing more than \$100 billion annually to build smarter energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the energy sector provides high quality employment throughout all states in the Nation that in turn support additional jobs equivalent to about 5 percent of all jobs in the Nation (e.g., 2.7 million employees, contractors and supply chain personnel work in investor-owned, public power and electric cooperatives in the electric power industry supporting an additional 4.4 million jobs for a total of more than 7 million jobs); and

WHEREAS, SSEB member states favor these trends of increasing economic productivity, creating more high quality jobs and improving environmental quality to continue to the benefit of their citizens and the Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board calls on the President, the Congress and federal agencies to implement innovative energy, environment, economic development, fiscal and other policies in equal partnership with member states and territories to:

- a) Ensure the Southern region's energy security and supply with substantial investments in a proven, diverse mix of traditional, new and advanced technologies;
- b) Sustain business development in the region and compete globally by eliminating barriers to the use of efficient energy and environmental technologies; and
- c) Support improved energy efficient technologies that reduce environmental impacts and contribute to a clean global environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to achieve these goals, the Southern States Energy Board supports the following:

- a) Comprehensive federal tax reform that maintains low capital costs, keeps energy bills affordable and predictable and encourages much needed investment in infrastructure;
- b) Greater efficiency of permitting review procedures using the existing Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council with a new Executive Director to regularly update the



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President and Cabinet on the status of energy projects, collaboratively coordinating federal and state permitting efforts and timelines;

- c) Expanding coordination among federal and state agencies and other stakeholders on transmission infrastructure;
- d) Maintaining supportive policies for natural gas and oil pipeline investments; and
- e) Making more funding available directed to pre-commercial research and development projects to drive down costs and preserve options in the future for nuclear, clean coal, carbon capture and storage, renewable and energy delivery technologies, energy storage, energy efficiency, distributed generation and smart technologies, electric and alternative fuel vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board communicates this resolution to the President of the United States, all heads of federal agencies responsible for policies related to energy infrastructure projects described in this resolution, the Office of Management and Budget Director, SSEB state and territory congressional delegations and appropriate state and territory officials.