



Policy Resolution 4.2019

## **Modernization of the Electric Grid**

### **Originating Sponsor**

Representative William E. "Bill" Sandifer, III, South Carolina

### **Co-Sponsors**

Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee  
Representative Mark McBride, Oklahoma

**WHEREAS**, intelligent and communicative energy infrastructure is a critical part of today's modern households, businesses, communities and the 21st century economy; and

**WHEREAS**, energy storage, microgrids, smart communities, and other non-wires alternatives are critical components of smarter energy infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, advanced energy infrastructure and modernization of the electric grid enable greater customer choice, improve the efficiency, reliability, and resiliency of the energy grid, and facilitate the integration of more clean energy and distributed energy resources, while maintaining reliability and affordability; and

**WHEREAS**, investments by entities to build and operate energy storage, microgrids, smart communities, and other smarter energy infrastructure support households, businesses, and communities for the purpose of creating a better quality of life for all citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, investments by companies to deploy new technologies and smarter energy infrastructure contribute to maintaining the reliability of the electric grid and improved operations by electricity providers to the benefit of all consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern States Energy Board recognizes that a smart grid is one of many components of a comprehensive effort in creating and maintaining access to clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy options for all consumers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern States Energy Board urges city leaders, elected and appointed officials, and other decision-makers to collaborate with regulators, policymakers and stakeholders to develop policies that remove barriers to deployment of smarter energy infrastructure and communities to help realize the full economic, environmental, and societal benefits of these resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Southern States Energy Board encourages its member states and region's utilities to prioritize energy storage and other smart energy infrastructure investments based on the benefits to electricity consumers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southern States Energy Board recognizes the crucial role played by electricity providers that integrate technology onto the electric grid in deploying smarter energy infrastructure; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southern States Energy Board supports utility investments in advanced energy infrastructure, energy storage, and other non-wires alternatives to help ensure all citizens have access to, and may take part in the benefits of, a smarter electric grid, as well as spur innovation and technology deployment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southern States Energy Board, while recognizing that building an advanced energy infrastructure will evolve over time and additional principles may emerge, endorses the following foundational principles for the purpose of educating its members and identifying issues of interest to local policy makers, the federal government and others:

- 1) Energy storage and other smarter energy infrastructure components provide benefits to customers;
- 2) To maximize the opportunities and benefits smarter energy infrastructure can provide to society, consumers and utilities should be able to invest in energy storage and other smarter energy infrastructure and have a clear path for their investment.
- 3) Energy storage, distributed energy resources, digital smart meters, power flow management technologies, distribution and outage management technologies, demand response and energy efficiency programs, and other innovative technologies are important components of smarter energy infrastructure.



*Unanimously adopted on September 24, 2019, at the  
59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern States Energy Board in Louisville, Kentucky*