



Transcending Boundaries

60TH ANNUAL MEETING

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS





2020 Adopted Policy Resolutions

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** Originating Sponsor*





Policy Resolution 01.2020

Adopted Unanimously on September 29, 2020

Broadband for Grid Modernization

Sponsor

Representative Rocky Miller, Missouri

WHEREAS, at its 59th Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, the Southern States Energy Board on September 24, 2019, unanimously adopted Policy Resolution 4.2019 entitled “Modernization of the Electric Grid”; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution 4.2019, the Southern States Energy Board recognized that “intelligent and communicative energy infrastructure is a critical part of today’s modern households, businesses, communities and the 21st century economy” and that “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 resolved in Resolution 4.2019 that it “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

WHEREAS, private, reliable, purpose-built, cyber-secure broadband communications networks can be isolated from the public Internet and thus provide a more secure foundation for new technologies required to modernize the electric grid; and

WHEREAS, electric utilities will require both wired and wireless broadband connectivity to serve the communications needs of their modernized grids; and

WHEREAS, electric utilities that build broadband networks for grid operations in rural areas could leverage the infrastructure that is deployed as part of this intelligent integrated smart grid evolution, including the wireless towers and backhaul, to support broadband service for consumers in unserved and underserved rural communities, thereby fostering economic development; and

WHEREAS, private wireless broadband networks deployed by electric utilities using the same spectrum and the same technology could interoperate with each other, improving electric distribution service

efficiency, safety, and resiliency across utility service areas, to the benefit of both the utilities and their customers; and

WHEREAS, by broadly selecting the same spectrum and the same technology for private wireless broadband networks, utilities across the region would also enjoy cost savings driven by economies of scale and scope in the deployment and operation of such networks.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages the region's utilities to deploy private, cyber-secure broadband communications networks to support the "new technologies and smarter energy infrastructure" of the modern electric grid envisioned in Resolution 4.2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges the region's utilities and Public Utility Commissions to encourage the use of infrastructure deployed for grid-management communications to also support consumer broadband services to rural homes and businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages the region's utilities that deploy private wireless broadband networks for grid-management communications to coordinate their planning, and Public Utility Commissions to facilitate such planning, to adopt a common spectrum band and technology for such networks to enable wireless network interoperability, increased functionality, and cost savings across the region.





Policy Resolution 02.2020

Adopted on September 29, 2020

Commitment to Abundant and Reliable Low-Cost Energy

Sponsor

Senator Ed Emery, Missouri

WHEREAS, genuine air pollutants, known as “criteria pollutants” under the federal Clean Air Act (carbon monoxide, lead, ground-level ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide) are harmful to human health or to the environment at concentrations that may be generated by industrial activities in the absence of abatement measures; and

WHEREAS, atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide is currently approximately 420 parts per million (42 thousandths of 1 percent); and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide, an odorless, colorless gas, is nontoxic at concentrations more than twenty times that concentration, and every human breath exhaled contains carbon dioxide at a concentration of approximately 40,000 parts per million (nearly 100 times the current atmospheric concentration); and

WHEREAS, it has taken over 200 years of activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and cement mixing to raise atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration from approximately 280 parts per million before the Industrial Revolution, by 140 parts per million (approximately 50 percent), to its present 420 parts per million, and it would take many centuries of such activities to raise carbon dioxide concentration to more than twenty times that concentration; and

WHEREAS, even burning all Earth’s known fossil fuels would not be sufficient to raise atmospheric concentration above about 2,000 parts per million, a level that it would take a thousand years or more to reach; and

WHEREAS, abundant, affordable, reliable energy is indispensable to lifting and keeping whole nations out of extreme poverty and the high rates of disease and premature death that invariably accompany it, and bringing them into sustained prosperity and the improved nutrition, good health, and lengthened life expectancies that accompany it; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—have been an excellent source of abundant, affordable, reliable energy and today account for approximately 85 percent of all primary energy consumed in the world; and

WHEREAS, emission controls on actually harmful pollutants from fossil fuels can keep ambient concentrations below threatening levels at a reasonable cost, and the further reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from them is extremely costly and does not impact public health; and

WHEREAS, many nations today remain in poverty, with the high rates of disease and premature death that accompany it, in large part because they lack abundant, affordable, reliable energy, and such nations are being discouraged from using fossil fuels out of unjustified fears of effects of the carbon dioxide emitted when fossil fuels are burned; and

WHEREAS, alternative energy technologies like wind and solar, because they are intermittent and their energy and power density are small fractions of the energy and power density of fossil fuels, are less affordable and less reliable than fossil fuels and therefore less capable of lifting and keeping nations out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the growing contribution of wind and solar to electrical grids results in higher electricity prices and reduced reliability; and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide is essential to human and animal life (regulating respiration) as well as plant life (photosynthesis) and therefore to all agricultural crops, which are essential to feeding the human population; and

WHEREAS, every doubling of carbon dioxide concentration in the air in which plants grow results in an approximately 35 percent increase in plant growth efficiency, allowing plants to grow better in warmer and cooler temperatures and in wetter and drier soils, improving the efficiency of their use of water and nutrients and their resistance to diseases and pests, and thus expanding their ranges into wider latitudes and altitudes and more varying soils, while improving their fruit-to-fiber ratios, so that one major review¹ of scientific studies of the effect of increased carbon dioxide on plant growth concluded that carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere from 1960 to 2012 contributed an additional \$3.2 trillion worth of agricultural harvests worldwide, and continued emissions can be projected to contribute an additional \$9.8 trillion by 2050; and

¹ Craig D. Idso, *The Positive Externalities of Carbon Dioxide: Estimating the Monetary Benefits of Rising Atmospheric CO₂ Concentrations on Global Food Production* (Tempe, AZ: Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, 2013), online at <http://www.co2science.org/education/reports/co2benefits/MonetaryBenefitsofRisingCO2onGlobalFoodProduction.pdf>.

WHEREAS, the growing human population needs a growing food supply, and the world's poor particularly need a more affordable food supply, and the effect of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide on agriculture contributes to satisfying both of those needs; and

WHEREAS, fears of catastrophic global warming driven by carbon dioxide rest not on empirical observation, the key to science, but on computer climate models² that simulate global average temperature increase of approximately 1.5–4.5°C (2.7–8.1°F) at equilibrium (known as “equilibrium climate sensitivity”), which is thought to take about two centuries, for each doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration; and

WHEREAS, such climate models predict much more global warming than actually observed over the relevant period,³ and their simulations can be made consistent with global average temperature over the past 150 years or so only by *ad hoc* adjustments of parameters (known as curve fitting); and

WHEREAS, such models therefore fail validation and provide no rational basis for any predictions of future global average temperature, any regional or local weather consequences of same, or any economic, public health, or national or international security consequences of same; and

WHEREAS, more empirically-based estimates of the amount of global warming that might be caused by increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration point toward an effect near or well below the minimal amounts simulated by the models; and

WHEREAS, attempting to mitigate global warming by curbing the use of fossil fuels would have little effect on warming while costing trillions of dollars while depriving people of the abundant, affordable, reliable energy necessary for prosperity, health, and long life (full implementation of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement has been estimated, using supporters' assumptions, to avert at most 0.17°C, or 0.3°F, of warming by the end of this century⁴ at a cost of \$70 to \$140 trillion⁵ or \$23.3 to \$46.6 trillion dollars per tenth of a degree Fahrenheit of warming averted); and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision in 2009 to treat carbon dioxide as a dangerous pollutant under the Clean Air Act (commonly known as the “CO₂ endangerment finding) was unjustified and has had serious negative impacts on Americans' wellbeing,

² Governments around the world, and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, rely on models included in what is called the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, of which the sixth generation (CMIP6) is currently in development.

³ Roy W. Spencer, “CMIP6 Climate Models Producing 50% More Surface Warming than Observations Since 1979,” online at www.DrRoySpencer.com. (Dr. Spencer is Principal Research Scientist in Climatology at the Earth Systems Science Center of the University of Alabama Huntsville and a NASA prize-winning climate scientist for his work managing satellite global temperature data.)

⁴ Bjørn Lomborg, “Impact of Current Climate Proposals,” *Global Policy* 7:1 (February 2016), 109–118, online at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1758-5899.12295>.

⁵ Bjørn Lomborg, “Gambling the World Economy on Climate,” *Wall Street Journal*, November 16, 2015, online at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/gambling-the-world-economy-on-climate-1447719037>.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The labeling of carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act should be reevaluated using empirical data and with a full appreciation of the benefits to mankind and to the nature of increased atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide.
2. The EPA should review and reverse its CO₂ endangerment finding.
3. American states should be free to pursue mixes of energy sources as their legislatures, regulatory agencies, and governors deem wise, efficient, and cost effective and should not be forced or coerced by national policy or international agreements, to compromise their commitment to abundant, reliable and low-cost energy.





Policy Resolution 03.2020

Adopted Unanimously on September 29, 2020

Impact of Energy Costs on Covid-19 Recovery

Sponsor

Mary Beth Tung, Ph.D., Maryland Energy Administration, Governor's Alternate

WHEREAS, electricity prices as a singular economic factor, have a significant multiplier effect, and higher electricity prices can trigger severe economic impacts for American families; and

WHEREAS, the Nation has been gripped by a pandemic that has slowed business activity, leading to an explosion of unemployment and business closures that will result in a protracted economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the estimated economic impact of 10% higher electricity prices between 2020 and 2040 is an overall economic loss of \$2.8 trillion and 18.5 million jobs lost and 25% higher electricity prices increases those impacts to \$5.4 trillion and 31.3million jobs lost; and

WHEREAS, rural and low-income Americans are the most susceptible to the adverse economic effects of increased electricity prices; and

WHEREAS, a diverse generation fleet can guard against rising electricity prices while providing more reliable and resilient energy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board and our Nation's political and community leaders must continue to keep the cost of electricity at the forefront of policy decisions alongside other important factors such as climate and environmental impacts, resiliency, reliability, and energy security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, those same leaders must acknowledge and address the reality that policies which increase costs place an undue burden on citizens, as those costs are socialized among everyday ratepayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Congress should consider the economic effect of increased energy costs when examining energy policy alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, said costs should be evaluated on how they impact America's most disadvantaged and vulnerable, the poor, the elderly, first responders, front line workers essential to food supplies or supply chains, anyone on fixed incomes, and all other working-class citizens.





Policy Resolution 04.2020

Adopted Unanimously on September 29, 2020

Continuing Support for Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Storage

Sponsor

Mary Beth Tung, Ph.D., Maryland Energy Administration, Governor's Alternate

WHEREAS, Section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code (U.S. Code Title 26) established tax incentives related to the deployment of carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration, and Section 48A sets tax credits for qualifying conventional power generation systems; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, the U.S. Department of Treasury released proposed regulations under Section 45Q providing important details, including guidance on geological storage and requirements for taxpayers to claim the tax credit; and

WHEREAS, carbon capture, storage, and utilization is the primary technology that can provide net-negative carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, retrofitting existing generating stations with carbon capture technology can result in carbon neutrality at a lower cost, ensuring a diverse, reliable and resilient electric grid while maintaining energy independence; and

WHEREAS, carbon capture is the only technology currently available that can be deployed at scale and harnessed to achieve a net-negative carbon emission energy industry; and

WHEREAS, carbon capture technologies can be used to capture CO₂ at industrial facilities in addition to generating stations, providing additional CO₂ that can be utilized to complement existing industrial processes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that our Nation's political leaders should act to enhance the existing generation fleet to guard our Nation against the negative economic, social, health, and grid impacts that stem from decreased reliability and resiliency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages Congress to bolster its support for carbon capture, utilization, and storage by expanding incentives for carbon capture paired

with conventional generating technology to maintain fuel diversity, ensure energy security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the lowest possible price to ratepayers.





Policy Resolution 05.2020

Adopted on September 29, 2020

Supporting Inclusive Energy Source Options for Consumers & Balanced Energy Solutions

Originating Sponsor

Senator Mark Allen, Oklahoma

Co-Sponsors

Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee

Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

WHEREAS, the threat of climate change requires an all-of-the-above approach utilizing all available energy solutions; and

WHEREAS, efforts to address climate change should identify on a fuel-neutral basis clean, flexible, reliable, versatile, and affordable energy sources that support the expansion of renewable and other energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, consumers should be empowered to make their own choices regarding the energy resources that best match their budget and lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, limiting the types of energy available to consumers and eliminating the right of citizens to choose how they want to power their homes and businesses is a costly and ineffective method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Southern states experience some of the highest energy burdens— with low-income households using 36% more electricity than the national average, according to the U.S. Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy three of the five largest cities with the highest energy burden for consumers are in the South; and

WHEREAS, low-income, African American, Latino, and renters pay up to three times more than the average household on home energy costs; and

WHEREAS, high energy burdens can threaten a household's ability to pay for energy and force tough choices between paying energy bills and buying food, medicine, or other essentials; and

WHEREAS, over sixty municipalities across the country already have taken steps to limit the types of energy available to consumers; and

WHEREAS, local efforts to ban specific energy resources will upset uniform state energy policies, and the regulation of a utility provider's authority to operate and serve customers is a matter of statewide concern; and

WHEREAS, low-cost energy solutions, such as natural gas, are a critical foundation of affordable housing and keep consumer utility bills stable and affordable; and

WHEREAS, the states of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Oklahoma already have adopted legislation preserving consumer energy and ensuring affordable, balanced energy solutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board hereby declares our strong support empowering Southern consumers to make their own energy choices in order to achieve balanced energy solutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board recognizes that limiting the types of energy available to consumers is an inefficient method of combating climate change and serves to increase the energy burden on the most vulnerable segments of society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges states to uphold the longstanding principle that the regulation of a utility provider's authority to operate and serve customers remains a matter of statewide concern; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges states to protect the right of consumers to choose the type of energy that meets their specific needs by ensuring that any code, ordinance, land use regulation or general or specific plan provision or part of a code, ordinance, land use regulation or general or specific plan provision adopted by a municipality does not prohibit or have the effect of restricting a person's or entity's ability to use the services of a utility provider that is capable and authorized to provide utility service at a person's or entity's property.





Policy Resolution 06.2020

Adopted Unanimously on September 29, 2020

Accelerating the Hydrogen Economy with Future Research and Development

Sponsor

Representative Mark McBride, Oklahoma

WHEREAS, scientists have been interested in hydrogen (H₂) as an energy source since the 1800s, and it currently is an essential feedstock and fuel in many industries; and

WHEREAS, H₂ is the simplest and most abundant element in the universe and, like electricity, is an energy carrier (fuel) that can be used to store, move, and deliver energy produced from other sources; and

WHEREAS, H₂ has the highest energy content of any common fuel per unit of weight, but it is less dense than other fuels, which hinders its wide-scale deployment; and

WHEREAS, H₂ primarily is used as a chemical in ammonia production, as a chemical feedstock and catalyst, as a hydrogenating agent for food and drug production, and in petrochemical and refinery processing; and

WHEREAS, H₂ is emerging as a low-carbon fuel option for transportation, electricity generation, and manufacturing applications, and it could decarbonize three large sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, H₂ can be produced without a carbon footprint from a variety of sources, including natural gas, coal, nuclear energy, biomass, waste materials, or splitting water molecules; and

WHEREAS, H₂ from natural gas is commercially viable today and could be a bridge technology with carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) to enable future energy scenarios where H₂ is sustainably produced using the Nation's diverse domestic resources; and

WHEREAS, gasification of fossil fuels with biomass and plastics is expected to be the lowest-cost route to providing carbon negative H₂ when using CCUS technologies; and

WHEREAS, several states have passed laws to encourage development of stationary H₂ applications; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is well-positioned to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy with H₂; and

WHEREAS, DOE develops technologies to diversify and increase domestic energy supplies and make energy more affordable, improve domestic energy production and use, and enhance the security, reliability, and resilience of energy infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages its member jurisdictions to consider laws that support the development of stationary H₂ applications to enable the transition to a hydrogen economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board commends DOE's Hydrogen Program Plan that actively pursues H₂ research and development efforts within the Office of Fossil Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and the Office of Nuclear Energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board encourages DOE to continue its emphasis on H₂ production, transport, delivery, and storage and to implement programs in the southern region that will advance the directive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges DOE to address novel safety considerations, revised regulations, and design standards that are specific to H₂ storage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board recommends the DOE Office of Fossil Energy leverage the experience of the *Regional Initiative to Accelerate CCUS Deployment* program recipients in its efforts to advance technologies to produce H₂ from coal and natural gas and bridge the technology with CCUS.





Policy Resolution 07.2020

Adopted on September 29, 2020

Supporting Balanced Energy Solutions and Revenue Sharing for States by Ensuring Gulf of Mexico Access

Sponsor

Representative Brent Powell, Mississippi

WHEREAS, the offshore oil and gas industry supported roughly 289,000 jobs across the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico provides nearly 20 percent of the Nation's crude oil production and contains nearly 45 billion barrels and 130 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered oil and natural gas in currently open areas for production; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico provides a \$28.6 billion economic stimulus to the economy of the United States and brings critical revenue to help support communities and states in their financial recovery efforts due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006 compromise legislation created revenue sharing for the first-time ever for Gulf States for offshore oil and natural gas production and helped secure greater domestic energy independence; and

WHEREAS, GOMESA disbursed \$353 million in much-needed revenue for Gulf States in 2019; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas production provided over \$1 billion to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for environmental protection and restoration efforts across the country; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, signed the Great American Outdoors Act on August 4, 2020, which will use revenue from energy development to provide up to \$1.9 billion per year to fund our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and Tribal schools. In addition, it also will use royalties from offshore oil and natural gas to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the tune of \$900 million per year to invest in conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. offshore oil and gas industry is regulated under stringent, world-leading standards and coincides with one of America's most vibrant and successful fisheries employing over 150,000 and contributing over \$7 billion to the economies of Gulf States; and

WHEREAS, one economic study found that expanding access in the Gulf of Mexico could provide existing producing states over \$7 billion per year in additional state Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and more than 96,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, any future restrictions on exploration and development in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico would have a significant and catastrophic economic impact on the Gulf region and the entire United States, especially at a time when all 50 states and the federal government are attempting to recoup lost economic activity and revenue associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) supports continued energy production activities in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico, and it encourages Congress to expeditiously introduce and pass legislation instructing the Department of Interior to protect future energy development in the Gulf of Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSEB supports protecting the workforce, blue-collar jobs, offshore service and energy supply chain companies, academic institutions, first-responders, and coastal communities that rely on production from the Gulf of Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSEB supports revenue sharing for all producing Gulf States, which can be utilized to support environmental and habitat restoration efforts, provide much needed economic development, aid in COVID-19 economic recovery, and bolster revenues for the U.S. Treasury; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be distributed to the leadership of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Department of Interior, and other applicable federal agencies.





Policy Resolution 08.2020

Adopted Unanimously on September 29, 2020

**Commending the Collaborative Efforts of Congress, the U.S.
Department of Energy and Its National Labs, and Electric
Utilities and their Supplier Community to Develop and Deploy
New Reactors and Other Innovative Carbon-Free Nuclear
Technologies**

Originating Sponsor

Representative John Ragan, Tennessee

Co-Sponsors

Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee

Commissioner David Salyers, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Governor's
Alternate

WHEREAS, a number of states and utilities throughout the Southern States Energy Board region and across the Nation have committed to ambitious, total or near-total decarbonization goals in the electricity sector within the next three decades; and

WHEREAS, the South's steady progress toward a clean energy future already relies in part on preserving its existing nuclear plant fleet (including extending operations for some plants beyond 60 years) and building new reactors and will increasingly require the design and deployment of new nuclear generating capacity featuring smaller modular designs and other innovative reactors, new nuclear fuels and other advanced technologies; and

WHEREAS, the development of risk-informed, performance-based and technology-inclusive licensing processes previously supported by SSEB, which Congress required with passage of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act of 2019, has helped pave the way for regulatory reviews to be aligned with the inherent safety characteristics, smaller reactor cores and simplified designs of advanced reactors; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Nuclear Energy Leadership Act pending in Congress would boost investment in research and development, fuel security, and the nuclear workforce of the future; and

WHEREAS, Federal appropriators from both parties have encouraged these efforts with significant funding through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to complement private investment and public-

private partnerships, with involvement of many prominent players from the SSEB region while leveraging the world-class expertise of the National Labs, including the Oak Ridge and Savannah River National Laboratories to ensure that new nuclear technologies are built and online in this decade; and

WHEREAS, DOE has devised three separate pathways for funding advanced nuclear collaboration through an Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program that will support licensing and construction of two reactors that are expected to be operational within seven years, and two other funding pathways for up to seven additional innovative nuclear projects that are in earlier stages of development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board recognizes that development and deployment of advanced nuclear technology is an important component to the region's continued leadership in providing clean, innovative, reliable energy solutions for its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSEB commends the timely, collaborative, bipartisan efforts at the federal level in assisting U.S. nuclear utilities' and suppliers' plans to speed innovative technologies to the grid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSEB requests that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Southern Congressional Delegations, the President of the United States, the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Committees on Appropriations, Environment & Public Works and Energy & Natural Resources and the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committees on Appropriations, Energy & Commerce and Science, Space & Technology, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy.





Policy Resolution 09.2020

Adopted on September 29, 2020

Investments in Reliable, Resilient and Lower Carbon Emission Electricity

Sponsor

Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

WHEREAS, the U.S. has large resources in fossil fuels that have provided reliable and resilient electricity to drive the largest economy in the global markets; and

WHEREAS, the fuel density of coal provides efficient electricity which can ensure reliability of supply; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has continued to provide tax subsidies to intermittent generation resources based on capacity factor availability equivalent to \$227 per megawatt of capacity for solar and \$111 per megawatt of wind capacity when you account for the installed capacity required to supply the same capacity as coal plants which operate at 85 percent and can be relied upon 24/7 on a monthly basis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has, on average between 2010 and 2016, provided financial interventions and subsidies of \$13.7 billion (63.1% in 2016\$) to non-fossil energy resources verses \$1.1 billion (5.2% in 2016\$) for fossil energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the National Coal Council (NCC) as a federal advisory committee to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published an advisory report which reviews policy actions needed by federal and state governments that can ensure reliable, affordable, low or reduced carbon electricity generated from U.S. resources; and

WHEREAS, the NCC has identified various actions needed to support the U.S. leadership in reducing carbon emissions from reliable, resilient electricity production, innovation in carbon capture and utilization and efficiency improvements for coal-fueled power plants; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has led the world in carbon emissions reductions from our Nation's electric utility industry over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, foreign countries, such as China, lead the world in generating electricity-based carbon emissions and are continuing to expand at a rate greater than the U.S. is reducing its emissions; and

WHEREAS, the closure of all U.S. coal-fueled electric generating stations will not offset the carbon emissions increases within China; and

WHEREAS, data confirms that reductions in global carbon emissions from electricity generation while maintaining affordable reliable and resilient access to all citizens can only be accomplished by the U.S. advancing the technology and leading the development of carbon emissions capture with subsequent storage or utilization; and

WHEREAS, both Congress and States can incorporate the goals and policies outlined by NCC to advance the technology development and deployment in the U.S. electric generation industry; and

WHEREAS, development of the required technology and implementation requires access to funding for major projects which can rely on effective time to scale support; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of states and utilities have established low-carbon or carbon reduction requirements and goals to be met by mid-century or sooner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board recommends that Congress, the Administration and State Governments develop policies, laws and regulations that provide funding support and policy incentives to meet the following objectives:

1. Retrofit a critical mass of existing coal power plants with carbon capture and efficiency enhancing technologies which allow reduction of carbon emissions while improving the economic efficiency of the technologies.
2. Establish a network of CO₂ storage sites and pipelines that is at least five times larger than currently available.
3. Deploy a variety of commercially available carbon emissions reduction technologies to ensure continued U.S. leadership in carbon emission reductions.
4. Implement State and Federal programs as recommended by the NCC report for the U.S. Secretary of Energy in pursuit of the timely achievement of said objectives.







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