



Policy Resolution 4.2022

Adopted Unanimously on August 29, 2022

Resolution in Support of Preserving and Protecting Consumer Choice for Energy Optionality

Sponsors

Senator Joel Carter, Mississippi*
Senator Jimmy Holley, Alabama
Senator Gary Stubblefield, Arkansas
Representative Howard Sanderford, Alabama
Representative Rick Beck, Arkansas
Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky
Representative Debbie Villio, Louisiana
Representative Brent Powell, Mississippi
Representative Mark McBride, Oklahoma

WHEREAS, all families and businesses deserve access to affordable and reliable energy, whether electricity, natural gas, or transportation fuels; and;

WHEREAS, families and businesses are currently affected by the highest inflation rate in over 40 years which is being driven by increases in food and energy costs according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

WHEREAS, all sources of natural gas and renewable natural gas supplies almost 32 percent of all the energy used nationally according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration; and

WHEREAS, the use of natural gas has driven decreasing emissions across the United States, with carbon dioxide emissions declining 5.6 percent below 2019 levels and 21 percent below 2005 levels according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, some states and municipalities across the country are devising ways to eliminate energy options currently available to residential, commercial, and industrial consumers by phasing out or banning the use of natural gas and propane; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of energy conversions for existing homeowners may exceed \$30,000 according to the National Association of Home Builders Home Innovation report; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that banning the use of natural gas and propane with too rapid a transition to electrification by higher socioeconomic classes would lead to higher energy bills and service disruptions for lower-income individuals and families while reversing the progress the United States has achieved in reducing emissions; and

WHEREAS, current natural gas infrastructure and technology will facilitate upstream innovation and investments in clean energy as part of the development of our future fuels mix;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board recognizes the important contributions of natural gas to ensuring energy affordability, reliability, and emission reductions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board expresses its opposition to restricting consumer choice by limiting or banning the use of natural gas and propane for residential, commercial, or industrial consumers by any level of government and the International Code Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to the leadership of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, other applicable federal agencies, and the International Code Council.

