



Policy Resolution 5.2022

Adopted Unanimously on August 29, 2022

Continuing Resolution on Energy Costs

Sponsor

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WHEREAS, inflation, energy and gasoline prices, and the rising cost of everyday goods and services are paramount in the minds of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Nation, recovering from a pandemic that slowed economic activity that caused business closures and supply chain disruptions, now faces an energy crisis and the highest levels of inflation seen in four decades; and

WHEREAS, barriers to domestic production and the development of critical midstream infrastructure, and other market forces have significantly impacted global and domestic energy markets, being further exacerbated by the Russian war in Ukraine; and

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

WHEREAS, energy prices have increased by 41.6 percent according to the June 2022 12-month Consumer Price Index, while energy commodities have increased by 60.6 percent; and

WHEREAS, skyrocketing energy prices, and the prices of the underlying commodities, threaten to usher in period of national and global economic hardship and possible recession; and

WHEREAS, the estimated impacts of even 10 percent higher electricity prices could cost millions of jobs and trillions of dollars by 2040 and will also have serious negative impacts on individuals' standard of living; and

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

WHEREAS, a greater domestic energy development, further energy and utility deregulation, and diverse generation sources can guard against rising electricity prices while providing more reliable and resilient energy to businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS, energy diversification is an essential precursor for energy security and helps safeguard against disruptions and shocks within the energy supply chain while ensuring adaptiveness in the face of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, this body did resolve on September 29, 2020, and again on September 28, 2021, to place the cost of electricity at the forefront of policy decisions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board and our Nation's political and community leaders must renew and reinvigorate the drive to mitigate the escalation of electricity prices associated with energy policy initiatives and global market forces and maintain cost and price as central to all energy policy decisions and considerations alongside other important factors such as grid reliability, resiliency, environmental impacts, and security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those same leaders must acknowledge and address the reality that policies that increase costs place an undue burden on citizens and communities, as those costs are socialized among everyday ratepayers, including those who can least afford escalating utility rates; and

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

