



Adopted Policy Resolution 01.2024

**Recognizing Nuclear as an Abundant Energy Resource,
Preserving the Existing Nuclear Fleet, and Deploying Advanced
Nuclear Technologies**

Sponsor

The Honorable Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee

WHEREAS, the 94 nuclear reactors in 28 states¹ are an energy, economic, environmental and fiscal powerhouse for the United States of America, employing 100,000 skilled workers and providing abundant, clean electricity to nearly 20 percent of the Nation’s homes and businesses while contributing \$12 billion annually in state and federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, the safe, secure, and reliable operation of the U.S. commercial nuclear fleet and the preservation of public health and our rich natural resources are the highest priorities of the industry’s skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus that achieving energy abundance will require construction of new nuclear plants, emphasizing the deployment of new reactor designs of various sizes, using light water, non-light water, and other technologies; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact on communities generated by the deployment of new reactors will provide good-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power plants’ clean, reliable, baseload power provides needed fuel and technology diversity, voltage support, fuel certainty, and system resiliency to the

¹ See U.S. Energy Information Administration, *nuclear explained* (September 2024), <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/nuclear/nuclear-power-plants.php#:~:text=As%20of%20August%202023,and%204%20have%20three%20reactors>.

grid – a unique value proposition that merits greater recognition by energy markets;
and

WHEREAS, the broad domestic nuclear manufacturing, supplier, and services network that maintains the existing nuclear fleet is actively engaged in developing innovative reactor technologies, with energy-generating and other promising applications that merit support by the U.S. Department of Energy to be positioned to compete in the worldwide nuclear technology market in which the United States must continue to be a leader; and

WHEREAS, continued U.S. leadership in commercial nuclear energy research, development, deployment and regulation is fundamental to America’s energy, economic and national security and international safety, health and stability and, thus, are American foreign policy and trade imperatives; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board recognizes the U.S. commercial nuclear industry as an integral source of today’s domestic electricity sector, an essential source of America’s future energy abundance, and an economic engine for those communities and states that host nuclear power plants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board urges State Legislatures to recognize the inherent value of nuclear energy by supporting the development, demonstration and commercial deployment of a wide array of nuclear technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board supports the development of advanced nuclear facilities as a means of ensuring access to abundant, affordable, resilient, flexible, and clean energy that supports America’s growing economy.