



HJ0048

LRB097 14128 CEL 58818 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Energy affects all aspects of American life and is  
3 indispensable for the quality of life, economic growth, and the  
4 sustainability of modern society; and

5 WHEREAS, Access to energy and the supply of energy shall  
6 become more important in the future as energy demand continues  
7 to increase; and

8 WHEREAS, The U.S. Energy Information Administration  
9 projects that overall energy consumption in the United States  
10 will grow by 14% between 2008 and 2035, electricity demand will  
11 increase by 30%, and demand for liquid transportation fuels  
12 such as gasoline and diesel will increase by nearly 14%; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. EPA, since 1980 domestic GDP  
14 has increased 124%, vehicle miles traveled have increased 103%,  
15 population has increased 36%, and energy consumption has  
16 increased 30%; and

17 WHEREAS, U.S. EPA reports that since 1980 aggregate  
18 emissions of air toxins have decreased 52%, ambient levels of  
19 carbon monoxide are down 77%, ozone is down 21%, lead is down  
20 94%, and sulfur dioxide is down 68%; and

1           WHEREAS, EPA's recently issued the Cross-State Air  
2           Pollution Rule and other recent U.S. EPA proposals, including  
3           the Coal Combustion Residuals Rule and the Mercury and Air  
4           Toxics Standards Rule, could threaten the reliability and  
5           security of the nation's electric energy supply; and

6           WHEREAS, More than 28 Gigawatts of coal-fired electricity  
7           generating capacity had been publicly announced to be retired  
8           beginning in 2010, before the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule  
9           was finalized on July 6, 2011; and

10          WHEREAS, Additional retirements of electric generating  
11          capacity are being announced due to the emission reduction  
12          requirements of current and proposed U.S. EPA regulations, and,  
13          according to estimates by the Federal Energy Regulatory  
14          Commission staff, could be as much as 81 Gigawatts, or  
15          one-fourth of the nation's fleet of coal-based generation  
16          capacity; and

17          WHEREAS, In 2009, 46% of electricity generated in Illinois  
18          was produced from coal-based units, including many units that  
19          may be retired in response to current and proposed U.S. EPA  
20          regulations; and

21          WHEREAS, The PJM Regional Transmission Organization has  
22          commented that U.S. EPA's regulatory analyses have not

1 adequately taken into account local reliability impacts and  
2 have understated the level of expected generation retirements  
3 under the EPA's proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule,  
4 while the Midwest ISO has expressed similar reliability risk  
5 concerns; and

6 WHEREAS, The Chair and members of the Federal Energy  
7 Regulatory Commission have expressed concerns about the  
8 inadequacy of analyses of potential reliability impacts, with  
9 Commissioner Philip Moeller noting that "the timing of the EPA  
10 regulations does not conform to the relevant planning horizons  
11 in the electric sector of our economy, one of the most  
12 capital-intensive sectors of industry...the federal government  
13 needs to convene an open and transparent process to assess the  
14 reliability implications of the EPA rules individually and in  
15 the aggregate"; and

16 WHEREAS, The premature closure of dozens of power plants in  
17 Illinois and surrounding Midwest states could imperil critical  
18 electrical transmission services, including voltage support,  
19 black start recovery, and reactive power, thereby further  
20 jeopardizing the dependability of the nation's energy supply;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Maintaining electrical grid reliability is  
23 particularly critical to the Chicago metropolitan area, due to

1 its population density and vulnerability to extreme weather  
2 events; and

3 WHEREAS, Estimates by the United Mine Workers of America  
4 indicate that the retirement of existing generating capacity in  
5 the short 2-4 year timeframes called for by current and  
6 proposed U.S. EPA regulations for reducing SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and air  
7 toxics emissions may put at risk more than 250,000 jobs  
8 directly and indirectly related to coal mining, rail  
9 transportation, and power generation, including an estimated  
10 28,000 jobs in Illinois, imposing economic hardship on workers  
11 and communities at a time of unacceptably high unemployment;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Energy efficiency is an important component of  
14 state and federal energy policies, but cannot be counted on to  
15 replace the output of the unprecedented numbers of power plant  
16 retirements anticipated under current and proposed U.S. EPA  
17 regulations; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility  
19 Commissioners has adopted resolutions calling on U.S. EPA to  
20 seek ways to minimize cost impacts to consumers and increases  
21 in residential, commercial, and industrial energy tariffs that  
22 will affect the competitiveness of businesses and the ability  
23 of customers in lower economic circumstances to be able to

1 afford energy; and

2 WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures has  
3 strongly urged the Administration and Congress to take steps to  
4 protect the environment without the serious anticipated  
5 consequences to grid reliability, electricity price spikes,  
6 and job losses; and

7 WHEREAS, Alternatives that would achieve the same level of  
8 emissions reduction as those targeted in the various EPA  
9 proposals can be achieved at much less cost, disruption to  
10 local economies, and with less impact to utility customers;  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly of the  
15 State of Illinois urges Congress and the Administration to act  
16 without delay to establish a sound foundation for national  
17 energy policy given the important and integral role of energy  
18 in all facets of modern life; by providing the necessary and  
19 fundamental support for programs key to a secure and  
20 sustainable energy future, the nation will at the same time be  
21 ensuring the resilience of our domestic economy and the  
22 competitiveness of the United States in the global economy; and  
23 be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the reliability of the U.S. energy grid  
2 should never be put at risk from policies that could cause  
3 energy shortages or delivery failures; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, It is the policy of the State of Illinois, and  
5 should be the policy of the United States, to allow utilities  
6 to coordinate the closure and retrofitting of existing power  
7 generation stations in an orderly manner that will ensure the  
8 continued supply of electricity and that will allow power  
9 generators to upgrade their facilities in a manner that  
10 provides the least cost while attaining environmental  
11 compliance; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, The United States Congress, which represents the  
13 interests of the states individually and collectively, is the  
14 appropriate public body to determine national energy policy as  
15 it relates to reliability of supply, residential  
16 affordability, competitive impacts on American industry and  
17 workers, and the overall economic prosperity of the nation; and  
18 be it further

19           RESOLVED, The time available to deploy existing emissions  
20 control technology to comply with U.S. EPA regulations must  
21 reflect normal construction industry experience and practices  
22 that maximize order and efficiency to avoid wasteful financial

1 expenditures and any risks to energy reliability; and be it  
2 further

3 RESOLVED, The General Assembly encourages and supports  
4 efforts to promote State and federal environmental and energy  
5 policies that will enhance the reliability of our State and  
6 nation's energy supply and minimize cost impacts by:

7 (1) allowing electric generators to coordinate the  
8 closure or retrofiting of existing electric generating  
9 units in an orderly manner that will ensure the continued  
10 supply of electricity and that will allow power generators  
11 to upgrade their facilities in the most cost-effective  
12 manner;

13 (2) allowing regulatory options for units that are  
14 necessary for grid reliability that commit to retire or  
15 repower and allowing phasing in of regulatory  
16 requirements; and

17 (3) establishing interim progress standards that  
18 ensure generation units meet U.S. EPA regulations in an  
19 orderly, cost-effective manner; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, The General Assembly therefore urgently requests  
21 that the Congress, the President, and the Administration take  
22 such actions as necessary and appropriate to ensure the  
23 continued supply of affordable and reliable electric energy,  
24 consistent with the maintenance of fuel diversity and grid

1 reliability, while also ensuring continuing emission reduction  
2 progress for the protection of public health and welfare; and  
3 be it further

4       RESOLVED, This Joint Resolution is approved and copies of  
5 it are to be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
6 the Governor of Illinois, all Members of the Illinois  
7 Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department  
8 of Energy, the Administrator of U.S. EPA, the Chair and Members  
9 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and all Members of  
10 the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.