

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

WHEREAS, the availability and affordability of energy is crucial to Missourians' lives and livelihoods, and Missouri's farms, businesses and industries depend on stable and reliable energy costs to keep their operations running; and

WHEREAS, any policy that would drive up the costs of energy would significantly harm Missouri's farms, businesses, industries, and residents, causing undue additional economic hardship particularly at a time when the state's economy is already strained; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently debating climate change legislation that would implement an expensive cap and trade emissions trading system by establishing a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, requiring those who emit greenhouse gases to purchase government credits to offset emissions, and allowing those emitters to trade or sell those credits; and

WHEREAS, the considerable costs associated with complying with this legislation would undoubtedly be passed on by companies to their customers, which would make the practical effect of this policy a massive transfer of wealth from energy customers in high greenhouse gas emitting areas; and

WHEREAS, with our reliance on coal as a source of fuel for much of our electricity generation, Missouri, along with other Midwestern states, would suffer abrupt and unprecedented increases in energy costs and its citizens, farms, and businesses would ultimately bear the staggering economic burden that would result from this legislation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to causing Missouri-based businesses to relocate to another state or country, or driving already struggling farms and businesses out-of-business, increases in energy costs have a disproportionately negative impact on the working poor and citizens on fixed incomes, since a greater portion of their constrained budgets would be spent on energy costs; and

WHEREAS, in setting national policies, Congress should strive to develop policies that do not cause sudden and severe negative impacts on the welfare and economies of certain states or regions. Congress should take steps to develop a prudent national energy policy that carefully transitions the country's energy sources over time, and that prevents any abrupt and massive energy price increases in any one state or region; and

WHEREAS, any proposed new environmental or energy legislation enacted by Congress should promote and encourage new technologies to more smoothly transition from higher greenhouse gas emitting sources to lower greenhouse gas emitting sources such as zero-emission advanced nuclear power, biomass energy, fuel cells, and clean coal with carbon capture and sequestration with a goal to bring such technologies to market as quickly as possible. The regulatory, liability, and legal barriers that prevent these technologies from being commercialized and deployed should be addressed before any cap is imposed on greenhouse gas emissions:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the Congress of the United States to refuse to enact cap and trade legislation that would negatively impact Americans by increasing the costs of goods and services and instead enact legislation that encourages states to establish and develop their own renewable energy portfolio standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Missouri congressional delegation.