

A resolution

memorializing the United States Congress to adopt clean energy legislation that strengthens the nation's energy and economic security, advances clean energy development, creates jobs, addresses climate change, and preserves the authority of states to reduce emissions and promote renewable energy.

WHEREAS, the United States spends approximately \$1,000,000,000 (one billion dollars) a day to import oil, a cost, according to the United States Department of Energy, that will reach \$8,500,000,000,000 (eight and one-half trillion dollars) by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the United States' dependence on fossil fuels weakens the nation's economy, threatens national security, and harms the environment; and

WHEREAS, the effects of unchecked climate change threaten the nation's health and security, as well as our forests, waters, agricultural system, and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, addressing climate change responsibly will lead to increased economic opportunity, a healthier population, and improved national security; and

WHEREAS, states have demonstrated leadership by adopting clean energy technologies and addressing climate change, as shown by the 15 states that have adopted economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals, the 13 states that have regulated emissions from automobile tailpipes, and the ten states that have set limits on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota, along with many other states, has adopted renewable energy standards promoting wind, solar, hydropower, and biomass energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's governor, together with the governors of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin, has signed the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Accord; and

WHEREAS, while states have shown leadership in addressing climate change and promoting clean energy jobs, a national statutory framework for clean energy would provide a more certain energy market and spur innovation in the clean energy sector; and

WHEREAS, the United States House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act on June 26, 2009, on a bipartisan vote, and members of the United States Senate from both political parties are currently considering and drafting a Senate clean energy jobs and climate bill; and

WHEREAS, these bills will curb climate change, promote clean energy development and use, reduce pollution, limit dependence on foreign energy sources, and create economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration projects growth of up to 2,000,000 new clean energy jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy legislation; and

WHEREAS, end-use energy efficiency can be the most cost-effective means to meet energy demands and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, energy-efficiency efforts can dramatically reduce electricity bills for homeowners and businesses and create thousands of jobs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that the United States Congress pass comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that:

- creates a unified framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- protects low and moderate income Americans from increased energy costs;
- invests substantially in energy efficiency;
- supports alternative sources of energy including but not limited to wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity, and biofuels; and
- does not preempt state legislative efforts to control carbon emissions and to encourage renewable energy development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.