

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 323

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION expressing the sense of the Tennessee General Assembly regarding the need for the United States and the State of Tennessee to address the issue of global climate change through the adoption of a fair and effective approach that safeguards American jobs, ensures affordable energy for America, and maintains America's global competitiveness.

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Academy of Sciences has found that the continued buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere impacts the global climate; and

WHEREAS, the greenhouse gas emissions of developing countries are rising more rapidly than the emissions of the United States and have surpassed the greenhouse gas emissions of the United States and other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's vibrant economy accounts for only 0.34% of total global greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must not eliminate existing American jobs and/or diminish the ability of American industry to compete in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must not lead to increases in the already high costs of fuel and gasoline; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must reward, and not punish, early adopters of energy efficient technologies and practice; and

WHEREAS, unilateral efforts by individual states or nations to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions lead to "emissions leakage" whereby emissions-generating activity simply migrates to unregulated states or nations; and

WHEREAS, the only manner to quantify these emissions is through a domestic and international greenhouse gas emissions registry that is uniform, transparent, and verifiable; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gases must ensure that the adopted regime does not result in the off-shoring of international trade sensitive industries; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has already lost 106,600 manufacturing jobs since 2000; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing accounts for \$40.9 billion of Tennessee's Gross State Product, and is the number one contributor to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must ensure the availability of sufficient, reliable, affordable energy, including clean energy, before restricting emissions in a manner that could reduce the volume of energy available to consumers; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must provide credits or allowances to support operations, such as recycling, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is the sense of the Tennessee General Assembly that the State of Tennessee should only combat global climate change and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases if and only if such a plan for doing so were structured in a manner to:

- (1) promote American jobs;
- (2) avoid imposing higher energy prices on American families and industry;
- (3) reward early adopters of efficient practices and technologies;
- (4) monitor and prevent "emissions leakage"; and
- (5) champion and ensure the continued global competitiveness of American industry.