



HR0961

LRB096 21307 MJR 37293 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Energy policy and regulation are vital to  
3 Illinois' economy and have a direct impact on Illinois  
4 families, farmers, businesses, and employees; and

5 WHEREAS, H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security  
6 Act of 2009, also known as the "Waxman-Markey" and "Cap and  
7 Trade", passed by the United States House of Representatives  
8 and now pending before the United States Senate, will have a  
9 dramatic effect on every American, increase the cost of  
10 supplying homes and businesses with electricity, cause job  
11 losses, and impose burdensome costs on the poor and families  
12 with incomes of less than \$10,000 annually for whom energy  
13 costs today make up 60% of their average family expenses, and  
14 for families with incomes of \$10,000 to \$25,000 annually, such  
15 costs make up 25% of their average family expenses; and

16 WHEREAS, On December 7, 2009, the Administrator for the  
17 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed 2  
18 distinct findings regarding greenhouse gases under Section  
19 202(c) of the federal Clean Air Act:

20 (1) Endangerment Finding: the Administrator finds that  
21 the current and projected concentrations of the 6 key  
22 well-mixed greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane  
23 (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs),

1           perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexaflouride (SF6), in  
2           the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of  
3           current and future generations; and

4           (2) Cause and Contribute Finding: the Administrator  
5           finds that the combined emissions of these well-mixed  
6           greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles and new motor  
7           vehicle engines contribute to the greenhouse gas pollution  
8           which threatens public health and welfare; and

9           WHEREAS, This finding by the EPA, if implemented, will cost  
10          Illinois jobs and raise electric rates on families, farmers,  
11          businesses, and employees; and

12          WHEREAS, The people of Illinois are dependent on coal for  
13          their electricity, obtaining approximately 50% of electrical  
14          energy from coal for their homes, farms, and businesses; this  
15          heavy dependence on coal is common throughout the Midwestern  
16          states; and

17          WHEREAS, Illinois is blessed with an abundance of coal,  
18          with coal-bearing rocks under 65% of the State, including all  
19          or parts of 86 of the 102 counties; the amount of recoverable  
20          coal beneath the surface in Illinois is estimated at 100  
21          billion tons, enough to meet the nation's energy needs for the  
22          next 100 years; there is more energy content in the coal in  
23          Illinois than the oil in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait combined; and

1           WHEREAS, The Illinois coal industry is a critical component  
2 of the State's economy, currently providing 4,000 direct jobs,  
3 thousands more indirect jobs, with an impact of over \$1 billion  
4 to the State's economy; and

5           WHEREAS, The technology of the 21st Century is providing  
6 cleaner, yet still affordable, baseload generation from coal,  
7 including Super Critical Pulverized Coal at the Prairie State  
8 Energy Campus in Washington County now under construction and  
9 scheduled to go online in 2011, and will provide low-cost  
10 energy to 2.5 million people in 9 states; and

11           WHEREAS, In 2009 the Clean Coal Portfolio Standard Act  
12 became law, which requires utilities to purchase up to 5% of  
13 their electricity from clean coal facilities that capture and  
14 store 50% of its carbon emissions, thus providing incentives  
15 for further development of coal gasification, coal-to-liquid,  
16 and carbon sequestration technologies; the Act also  
17 establishes a goal that each public utility obtain 25% of its  
18 power from clean coal plants by 2025; and

19           WHEREAS, Illinois' abundance of coal and incentives for  
20 coal gasification has made it the world's center for clean coal  
21 technology attracting several projects now in the planning  
22 phase, including the FutureGen project in Mattoon, the

1 Taylorville Energy Center, the Power Holdings project in  
2 Jefferson County, and the Secure Energy project in Decatur; and

3 WHEREAS, The focus in Illinois and throughout the Midwest  
4 should be on developing and deploying clean coal technologies  
5 rather than a punitive system that drives up costs, leads to  
6 lower baseload energy production, and inhibits or prevents  
7 progress on a fuel that the United States has in abundance  
8 within its own borders; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
11 urge our elected statewide officials to express their  
12 opposition to the further acceptance or approval of the  
13 Environmental Protection Agency formal endangerment finding on  
14 greenhouse gases; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Environmental  
16 Protection Agency to rescind their recent formal endangerment  
17 finding on greenhouse gases; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the we urge the Illinois congressional  
19 delegation to vote against H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy  
20 Act of 2009, and urge our elected statewide officials express  
21 their respective positions on the passage of H.R. 2454 and send  
22 a unified message to our congressional delegation; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent  
3 to Governor Pat Quinn, President Barack Obama, President of the  
4 United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
5 Representatives, the Administrator of the Environmental  
6 Protection Agency, and each member of the Illinois  
7 congressional delegation.