House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to direct the United States Environmental Protection Agency to use specified criteria in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil-fueled electric generating units.

WHEREAS, a reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to Florida's economy and job growth, as well as the overall interests of its citizens, and

WHEREAS, Florida supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy because it is in the best interest of the state and the nation, and

WHEREAS, the United States has abundant supplies of coal that provide economic and energy security benefits, including affordable and reliable electricity, and

WHEREAS, carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled electric generating units could threaten the affordability and reliability of Florida's electricity supplies, and

WHEREAS, such regulations also impose additional financial burdens on electric generating units that have invested in pollution controls to meet the recent mercury regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and
WHEREAS, such burdens risk the closure of electric generating units resulting in substantial job loss, and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fueled electric generating units in the United States represent only 3 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration projects that the nation's electric sector carbon dioxide emissions will be 14 percent below 2005 levels in 2020, and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration projects that carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's coal-fueled electric generating units will be 19 percent below 2005 levels in 2020, and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2013, the President of the United States directed the United States Environmental Protection Agency to issue standards, regulations, and guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified, and reconstructed fossil-fueled electric generating units, and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has recognized that states will play a central role in establishing and implementing carbon standards for existing electric generating units, and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish a procedure under which each state must develop a plan for establishing and
implementing standards of performance for existing fossil-fueled
electric generating units within the state, and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act expressly allows states, in
developing and applying such standards of performance, to take
into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful
life of an existing fossil-fueled electric generating unit to
which such standards apply, and

WHEREAS, the existing regulations of the United States
Environmental Protection Agency provide that states may adopt
less stringent emissions standards or longer compliance
schedules than the agency's guidelines based on factors such as
unreasonable cost of control, physical impossibility of
installing necessary control equipment, or other factors that
make less stringent standards or longer compliance times
significantly more reasonable, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of electricity
consumers in Florida to continue to benefit from reliable,
affordable electricity provided by coal-based electric
generating units, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States is urged to direct
the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in developing
guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil-fueled electric generating units, to:

(1) Respect the primacy of Florida and rely on state regulators to develop performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions that take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mix, and economic priorities of the state.

(2) Issue guidelines and approve state-established performance standards that are based on reductions of carbon dioxide emissions achievable by measures undertaken at fossil-fueled electric generating units.

(3) Allow Florida to set less stringent performance standards or longer compliance schedules for fossil-fueled electric generating units.

(4) Give Florida maximum flexibility to implement carbon dioxide performance standards for fossil-fueled electric generating units.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.