

By: Armbrister

S.R. No. 255

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The population of Texas is expected to reach 35  
2 million by 2040; accordingly, the state's demand for energy is  
3 projected to increase by more than 30 percent over the next 20  
4 years, illustrating the importance of a safe and stable energy  
5 supply to sustain a promising standard of living for generations of  
6 Texans; and

7           WHEREAS, The United States Congress is currently considering  
8 legislation that addresses these concerns; the Clear Skies Act of  
9 2005 allows utilities to take advantage of coal as the primary  
10 source of electricity generation, but also requires utility  
11 companies to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide,  
12 and mercury by 70 percent by 2018; and

13           WHEREAS, The impact of this legislation to continued economic  
14 development in Texas and in meeting the energy needs of the state's  
15 growing population is clear in light of the fact that Texas ranks  
16 fifth in the country among coal-producing states and leads the  
17 nation in coal consumption; and

18           WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature has long supported public  
19 policy initiatives that promote the health of Texans and encourage  
20 a clean environment while also supporting economic growth; the  
21 Clear Skies Act of 2005 is one such initiative utilizing market  
22 forces to support utilities in meeting emission reduction targets  
23 using the most efficient means possible; now, therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 79th Texas Legislature urge

1 the Congress of the United States to state their commitment to the  
2 public and economic health of Texas and its citizens and its trust  
3 in the free market by passing the Clear Skies Act of 2005; and, be it  
4 further

5         RESOLVED, That the secretary of the Texas Senate forward  
6 official copies of this resolution to the president of the United  
7 States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the  
8 president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all  
9 the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request  
10 that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional  
11 Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of  
12 America.