

By: Burnam

H.R. No. 928

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Global warming constitutes a grave threat to the
2 vibrant Texas economy and to the quality of life that Texans
3 currently enjoy; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
5 Change (IPCC) concluded that global warming was most likely caused
6 by increases in greenhouse gas emissions due to human activity; and

7 WHEREAS, Texas' carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel
8 combustion ranks 7th in the world; and

9 WHEREAS, In January of 2009, the U.S. Geological Survey
10 concluded that temperatures are rising faster than predicted and
11 that "the Southwestern United States may be entering a period of
12 increased drought;" and

13 WHEREAS, Recent projections by the Environmental Protection
14 Agency indicate that the Gulf of Mexico could rise between one and
15 five feet by 2100 as a result of climate change, threatening nearly
16 one quarter of the state's population living on or near the Texas
17 coast; and

18 WHEREAS, Changing climate patterns also pose a serious threat
19 to the state's \$14 billion agricultural industry; and

20 WHEREAS, scientists predict that multiple effects will
21 result from projected temperature increases, including more
22 heat-related fatalities, higher ozone concentrations in urban
23 areas, more wildfires, increased incidences of tropical diseases,
24 and other public health implications; and

1 WHEREAS, Earth Hour began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when
2 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for one
3 hour as a response to the enormous threat to our planet that climate
4 change poses; and

5 WHEREAS, Earth Hour has grown into a global sustainability
6 movement as a part of which 50 million people switched off their
7 lights last year; and

8 WHEREAS, Earth Hour seeks to educate individuals about the
9 grave threat posed by climate change and urges the U.S.
10 Administration to lead the global effort to curb deforestation, a
11 principal cause of climate change, and to promote the creation of a
12 low carbon economy through renewable energy sources and improved
13 energy efficient standards; and

14 WHEREAS, 825 cities in 80 countries have already agreed to
15 participate in Earth Hour 2009; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby express its enthusiastic support for Earth Hour,
18 March 28, 2009, and urge all Texas citizens to participate in this
19 effort by turning their lights off from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Central
20 Standard Time; and, furthermore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives participate in
22 this important effort by turning off the Capitol dome lights from
23 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.