

By: Burnam

H.R. No. 1083

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Global warming could be a threat to the vibrant
2 Texas economy and to the quality of life that Texans currently
3 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' the 9th largest economy in the world, carbon
8 dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion ranks 7th in the
9 world; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Scientists predict that multiple effects will
22 result from projected temperature increases, including more
23 heat-related fatalities, higher ozone concentrations in urban
24 areas, more wildfires, increased incidences of tropical diseases,

1 and other public health implications; and

2 WHEREAS, Earth Hour began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when
3 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for one
4 hour as a response to the concern that climate change may pose to
5 our planet.

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives participate in
23 this important effort by turning off the Capitol dome lights from
24 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.