

By: Hall

S.C.R. No. 20

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Our food and water supplies, communications,
2 banking, hospitals, law enforcement, and countless critical
3 functions depend on the electric grid, but the federal government
4 has failed to ensure its security; and

5 WHEREAS, Numerous national publications have reported on the
6 great danger to the electric grid from an electromagnetic pulse, or
7 EMP; national experts regard a potential attack on our electric
8 grid system, whether natural or manmade, as a grave threat to our
9 American way of life; and

10 WHEREAS, The risk of an EMP attack has been acknowledged
11 since the 1960s, and the congressional EMP Commission warned in its
12 2004 and 2008 reports that terrorists or state actors using
13 relatively unsophisticated missiles armed with nuclear weapons
14 could stage such an attack; in 2009, the congressional Commission
15 on the Strategic Posture of the United States, led by former
16 Secretaries of Defense William Perry and James Schlesinger, urged
17 immediate action to protect the electric grid; and

18 WHEREAS, Although the federal government has thus far
19 neglected to take action, Texas is fortunate to have its own power
20 grid; the state is thus capable of hardening its own electric system
21 to ensure reliable electricity in a hostile environment for
22 residents, businesses, and state and local government, as well as
23 for U.S. military bases; and

24 WHEREAS, Even if an EMP threat never materializes, protecting

1 the grid would provide substantial economic benefits; as the
2 federal government closes military bases around the country, Texas
3 bases would likely survive closure, due to their enhanced energy
4 security; moreover, companies considering relocation or expansion
5 would clearly find the assurance of secure power immensely valuable
6 and look to the Lone Star State; and

7 WHEREAS, The protection of the electric grid is essential to
8 the security and continued prosperity of our state and nation, and
9 Texas is prepared to do its part to ensure that citizens can rely
10 completely on the power system that sustains our society; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to provide
14 Department of Homeland Security funds for the protection of the
15 state's electric grid; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
17 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
18 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
19 Representatives of the United States Congress, to the secretary of
20 the Department of Homeland Security, and to all the members of the
21 Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution
22 be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress
23 of the United States of America.