

By: Seliger

S.R. No. 712

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Fossil fuels, including coal, natural gas, and oil,  
2 currently meet more than three quarters of primary global energy  
3 demand around the world and in the United States; and

4           WHEREAS, According to the International Energy Agency, under  
5 current energy and environmental policies, fossil fuels will  
6 continue to play a role of this magnitude for the next quarter  
7 century or more; even assuming global adoption of policies  
8 consistent with the IEA's "climate-stabilizing" 450 Scenario, more  
9 than half of total worldwide and U.S. energy demand would still be  
10 met by fossil fuels in 2040; and

11           WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy has reported that  
12 "carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies provide a  
13 key pathway to address the urgent U.S. and global need for  
14 affordable, secure, resilient, and reliable sources of clean  
15 energy"; environmental advocates who recognize the value and  
16 enduring role of fossil fuels as an essential source of energy have  
17 come to support the accelerated development and broad deployment of  
18 carbon capture technologies for fossil fuels as part of a  
19 sustainable energy future; similarly, fossil energy advocates who  
20 have recognized the role carbon capture can play in creating new  
21 opportunities support the development and deployment of carbon  
22 capture technologies for fossil fuels; and

23           WHEREAS, The United States and Texas have abundant supplies  
24 of fossil energy, the production and use of which provide important

1 economic, energy, and national security benefits to our nation and  
2 our state; Texas is the nation's largest producer of natural gas,  
3 oil, lignite coal, and fossil fuels in total, and it has the  
4 nation's largest proved reserves of both natural gas and oil, as  
5 well as the ninth-largest recoverable reserves of coal; it is the  
6 nation's largest consumer of coal for electricity generation and  
7 the largest consumer of natural gas for both electricity generation  
8 and industrial use; 77 percent of the electricity generated in  
9 Texas is produced from the use of fossil fuels; and

10 WHEREAS, Reliable and affordable electricity is vital to  
11 economic growth and job creation and to the well-being of all  
12 citizens; according to the U.S. Department of Energy, "A diverse  
13 portfolio of energy resources is critical to U.S. energy and  
14 national policy . . . being more robust and resilient in comparison  
15 to a system that is heavily dependent on a limited set of energy  
16 resources . . . [and] helps insulate the economy from certain  
17 risks, including price volatility and risks from supply  
18 disruptions"; and

19 WHEREAS, Texas is a leader in the research and development of  
20 technologies that provide clean, safe, and reliable power  
21 generation, and it is committed to continued research and  
22 development of carbon reduction strategies for fossil fuels,  
23 including existing and emerging CCUS technologies such as  
24 geological sequestration, mineral carbonation, and the beneficial  
25 use of captured carbon dioxide; and

26 WHEREAS, In Texas, many academic, private, and governmental  
27 initiatives and institutions are engaged in efforts to address the

1 environmental, health, and economic impacts of energy production  
2 and use through collaborations on applied CO<sub>2</sub> research, practical  
3 applications, workforce development, and public education; among  
4 them are the Petra Nova Project at the W. A. Parish Electric  
5 Generating Station in Fort Bend County, the Texas Clean Energy  
6 Project in Ector County, the NET Power project in Harris County, the  
7 Energy and Environment Initiative at Rice University, the Texas  
8 Carbon Management Project, and the Gulf Coast Carbon Center at The  
9 University of Texas at Austin; and

10 WHEREAS, Legislation was introduced in the 114th U.S.  
11 Congress to enhance and extend current federal tax incentives,  
12 under Section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code, that sustain and  
13 promote such collaborations and encourage private industry in  
14 energy generation, manufacturing, and agriculture to adopt and  
15 deploy existing and emerging technologies that increase carbon  
16 capture, utilization, and storage; environmental and energy  
17 advocates have come together in support of this legislation in a  
18 groundbreaking coalition of environmental advocacy groups, labor  
19 unions, and energy producers from the coal, oil and gas, ethanol,  
20 and algae-biomass industries; moreover, the legislation has  
21 received strong bipartisan support in both the United States Senate  
22 and the United States House of Representatives; and

23 WHEREAS, Congress and the president are also currently  
24 considering a large-scale federal infrastructure initiative to  
25 strengthen our nation's transportation, public works, and energy  
26 infrastructure, which could also serve as a vehicle for advancing  
27 "jobs-ready" carbon capture projects; the U.S. Department of Energy

1 has determined that "a combination of tax incentives and research,  
2 development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) will be  
3 critical to developing transformational carbon capture  
4 technologies and to driving down the costs of capture"; and

5 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has long been committed to a  
6 forward-looking energy strategy that maximizes both environmental  
7 quality and economic opportunity; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 85th Texas Legislature  
9 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact  
10 legislation to expand and extend the current federal tax credit for  
11 carbon capture, utilization, and storage under Section 45Q of the  
12 Internal Revenue Code; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Texas Senate respectfully urge Congress to  
14 provide appropriations to the U.S. Department of Energy sufficient  
15 to achieve and sustain a robust carbon capture research,  
16 development, demonstration, and deployment program and to support  
17 the inclusion of economically and environmentally beneficial  
18 carbon capture projects in any forthcoming federal infrastructure  
19 initiative; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Texas Senate respectfully urge Congress to  
21 support policies to increase the operational efficiency, and  
22 thereby the environmental performance, of existing  
23 electric-generating units and to support the preservation of a  
24 fuel-diverse electric generation portfolio critical to our  
25 domestic economic, energy, and national security; and, be it  
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the secretary of the senate forward official

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1 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
2 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
4 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
5 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
6 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.