

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 83

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION expressing the sense of the Tennessee General Assembly regarding the need for the United States and the State of Tennessee to address the issue of global climate change through the adoption of a fair and effective approach that safeguards American jobs, ensures affordable energy for America, and maintains America's global competitiveness.

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Academy of Sciences has found that the continued buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere adversely impacts the global climate; and

WHEREAS, the greenhouse gas emissions of developing countries are rising more rapidly than the emissions of the United States and have surpassed the greenhouse gas emissions of the United States and other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's vibrant economy accounts for only 0.34% of total global greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must not eliminate American jobs and/or diminish the ability of American industry to compete in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions should be undertaken to minimize any increase in the already high cost of fuel and gasoline; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must reward, and not punish, early adopters of energy efficient technologies and practice; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must adopt an international component to prevent "emissions leakage" and ensure that emissions do not simply migrate to another state or nation; and

WHEREAS, the only manner to quantify these emissions is through a domestic and international greenhouse gas emissions registry that is uniform, transparent, and verifiable; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gases must ensure that the adopted regime does not result in the off-shoring of international trade sensitive industries; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has already lost 106,600 manufacturing jobs since 2000; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing accounts for \$40.9 billion of Tennessee's Gross State Product, and is the number one contributor to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must ensure the availability of sufficient, reliable, affordable energy, including clean energy, before restricting emissions in a manner that could reduce the volume of energy available to consumers; and

WHEREAS, any system to regulate greenhouse gas emissions must provide credits or allowances to support operations, such as recycling, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that it is the sense of the Tennessee General Assembly that the United States and the State of Tennessee should combat global climate change and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in a manner structured to:

- (1) promote American jobs;
- (2) save American citizens and industry from higher energy prices;
- (3) reward early adopters of efficient practices and technologies;
- (4) monitor and prevent "emissions leakage"; and
- (5) champion and ensure the continued global competitiveness of American industry.