

1 HJR197
2 127390-1
3 By Representatives DeMarco, Johnson (R), Williams (J), Farley,
4 Treadaway and Canfield
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 24-MAR-11

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT
LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FROM REGULATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL.

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA) has proposed or is proposing numerous new
regulations, particularly in the area of air quality and
regulation of greenhouse gases, that are likely to have major
effects on the economy, jobs, and U.S. competitiveness in
worldwide markets; and

WHEREAS, EPA's regulatory activity as to air quality
and greenhouse gases has become known as the "train wreck,"
because of the numerous and overlapping requirements and
because of the potentially devastating consequences this
regulatory activity may have on the economy; and

WHEREAS, concern is growing that, with cap-and-trade
legislation having failed in Congress, EPA is attempting to
obtain the same results through the adoption of regulations;
and

1 WHEREAS, EPA over-regulation is driving jobs and
2 industry out of America; and

3 WHEREAS, although required by the Clean Air Act
4 under Section 321, 42 U.S.C. § 7621, neither EPA nor the
5 administration has conducted a comprehensive study of how many
6 jobs might be lost by regulation of greenhouse gases or what
7 the cumulative effect of all of this new regulatory activity
8 will have on the economy and competitiveness; and

9 WHEREAS, EPA has not performed any comprehensive
10 study of what the environmental benefits of its greenhouse
11 regulations will be in terms of impacts on global climate; and

12 WHEREAS, state agencies are routinely required to
13 identify the costs of their regulations and to justify those
14 costs in light of the benefits; and

15 WHEREAS, since EPA has identified "taking action on
16 climate change and improving air quality" as its first
17 strategic goal for the 2011-2015 time period, EPA should be
18 required to identify the specific actions it intends to take
19 to achieve these goals and to assess the total cost of all
20 these actions together; and

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature supports continuing
22 improvements in the quality of the nation's air and believes
23 that such improvements can be made in a sensible fashion
24 without damaging the economy so long as there is a full
25 understanding of the cost of the regulations at issue; and

26 WHEREAS, the primary goal of government at the
27 present time must be to promote economic recovery and to

1 foster a stable and predictable business environment that will
2 lead to the creation of jobs; and

3 WHEREAS, public health and welfare will suffer
4 without significant new job creation and economic improvement,
5 because people with good jobs are better able to take care of
6 themselves and their families than the unemployed and because
7 environmental improvement is only possible in a society that
8 generates wealth; and

9 WHEREAS, economists speculate, based on a variety of
10 recent analyses on GHG regulation, that EPA's approach would:
11 Reduce the gross domestic product every year for the next two
12 decades, with GDP dropping \$500 billion by 2030; reduce U.S.
13 employment by 2.5 million jobs by 2030; reduce U.S. household
14 incomes, with average household income dropping by about
15 \$1,200 annually by 2030; and increase U.S. energy costs by
16 approximately 50 percent for gasoline and residential
17 electricity prices, 75 percent for industrial electricity
18 prices and residential natural gas prices, and 600 percent for
19 electric utility coal prices; now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby call upon the
22 Members of the Alabama Delegation in the U.S. Congress to:

23 (1) Adopt legislation prohibiting EPA by any means
24 necessary from regulating greenhouse gas emissions, including,
25 if necessary, defunding EPA greenhouse gas regulatory
26 activities;

1 (2) Impose a moratorium on promulgation of any new
2 air quality regulation by EPA by any means necessary, except
3 regulation to directly address an imminent health or
4 environmental emergency, for a period of at least two years,
5 including defunding EPA air quality regulatory activities;

6 (3) Require the administration to undertake a study
7 identifying all regulatory activity that EPA intends to
8 undertake in furtherance of its goal of "taking action on
9 climate change and improving air quality" and specifying the
10 cumulative effect of all of these regulations on the economy,
11 jobs, and American economic competitiveness. This study should
12 be a multi-agency study drawing on the expertise both of EPA
13 and of agencies and departments having expertise in and
14 responsibility for the economy and the electric system and
15 should provide an objective cost-benefit analysis of all EPA's
16 current and planned regulations together.