

1 HJR89
2 182641-2
3 By Representative Standridge
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 02-MAR-17

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8 URGING PROTECTION OF THE NATION'S ELECTRIC POWER
9 GRID FROM DYNAMIC CYBER THREATS.

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11 WHEREAS, protecting the nation's energy grid and
12 ensuring a reliable and affordable supply of electricity are
13 top priorities for the electric power industry and state and
14 federal governments; and

15 WHEREAS, the electric power industry is one of
16 sixteen critical infrastructure sectors that owns or operates
17 assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual,
18 that are considered in some cases so vital to the United
19 States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a
20 debilitating effect on security, national economic security,
21 national public health or safety, or any combination thereof;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the energy grid is a complex,
24 interconnected network of generation, transmission,
25 distribution, control, and communication technologies that can
26 be impacted by natural events, including earthquakes and

1 hurricanes, as well as by malicious events like cyber or
2 physical attacks or a combined cyber-physical attack; and

3 WHEREAS, the electric and nuclear sectors have
4 rigorous mandatory and enforceable standards developed by the
5 North American Electric Reliability Corporation, a
6 government-certified standards setting body, under the
7 oversight of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to help
8 protect the reliability and security of the bulk electric
9 system assets they own or operate; and

10 WHEREAS, the electric power industry also relies on
11 close coordination and partnerships with federal law
12 enforcement, military, and security agencies to defend against
13 hostile nation-states or other acts of war against the United
14 States, including cyber threats; and

15 WHEREAS, the electric power industry's partnership
16 with the federal government, through the Electricity Subsector
17 Coordinating Council, is cited by the National Infrastructure
18 Advisory Council as the model for how critical infrastructure
19 sectors can more effectively partner with the government; and

20 WHEREAS, the electric companies continuously work
21 across the industry, with other sectors, and the government at
22 all levels to make the grid more secure and resilient and to
23 improve response and recovery capabilities; now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
25 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That given interdependecies among
26 the electric power industry, other sectors, and government,
27 the private and public sectors should continue to coordinate

1 in planning and preparing for recovery from manmade and
2 naturally occurring events that could disrupt electricity.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That given the dynamic
4 nature of cyber threats and the continued coordination of
5 efforts between critical infrastructure sectors and the
6 federal government, states should proceed in a careful and
7 deliberate manner to avoid unintended consequences to existing
8 regulations, standards, efforts, and initiatives when
9 considering whether to pursue legislative or regulatory
10 approaches to cyber issues.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That electric companies
12 should continue to serve as pillars of the communities they
13 serve and should continue to work with state and local
14 officials to educate customers on the appropriate steps to be
15 prepared in the event of a power outage.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
17 resolution be forwarded to Governor Robert Bentley, the Energy
18 Division of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community
19 Affairs and ADECA Director Jim Byard, and the Chair of the
20 Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy that they may
21 know of our deep concerns regarding these matters.