

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

8 URGING PROTECTION OF THE NATION'S ELECTRIC POWER  
9 GRID FROM DYNAMIC CYBER THREATS.  
10

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 interdependencies 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.