

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 996

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION urging Tennesseans to buy the Nissan LEAF, the world's first affordable, all-electric vehicle, in order to promote alternative energy, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and resolve current conflicts surrounding the Keystone XL Pipeline.

WHEREAS, as controversy flares over the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of scarce resources, especially regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline, the need for alternative energy sources has become increasingly evident; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, through its relationship with the Nissan Motor Company, plays an important part in the groundbreaking research and manufacturing of fuel-efficient and low-emissions vehicles at the forefront of green energy and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the automotive company, with North American headquarters in Franklin and production plants in Smyrna and Decherd, Tennessee, has demonstrated its commitment to improving the environment through its Nissan Green Program and was recognized as an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Nissan's finest achievement in energy conservation is the Nissan LEAF, the first affordable, pure-electric vehicle for the mass market and winner of numerous international awards and recognitions for its safety, convenience, and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the five-seater, five-door hatchback offers a range of over 100 miles on a full charge, a convenient and reliable recharge of eight hours using the 220-240 volt power supply, and produces zero tailpipe emissions, while providing the same comforts and amenities of the traditional gas-powered car; and

WHEREAS, the Nissan LEAF first gained notice in October 2010 upon receiving a Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award. The prestigious panel of experts and editorial board of

advisers were impressed with the car's 100-mile range, reasonable price, and low operating cost compared to gasoline-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS, shortly after that, the Nissan LEAF power system was named to Ward's 2011 "10 Best Engines" list, marking the first inclusion of an all-electric car in the list's seventeen-year history. Considered among thirty-eight competitors, the LEAF power system was lauded for its delivery of maximum torque from start with smooth and steady acceleration; and

WHEREAS, consistently attracting the attention of experts and consumers, the Nissan LEAF was named one of the Kelley Blue Book's 2011 Top Green Cars, which noted its zero gas, zero emissions, safety, comfort, and use of recycled materials; and

WHEREAS, the Nissan LEAF also earned a "Top Safety Pick" rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety for its front, rear, and side impact protection and electronic stability control, among many outstanding safety features. It was also the first fully electric vehicle to even be tested by the Institute, proving it is a pioneer in green technology; and

WHEREAS, in July 2011, the Nissan LEAF became the first all-electric vehicle to earn five stars for safety from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's New Car Assessment Program; and

WHEREAS, the greatest testament to the vehicle's prominence in the industry was its designation as the 2011 World Car of the Year and European Car of the Year at the New York International Auto Show; and

WHEREAS, with jurors congregating from Asia, Europe, and North America, the World Car of the Year competition is an opportunity for companies like Nissan to participate in the global commitment to sustainability and conservation; and

WHEREAS, Nissan has devoted itself to providing sustainable mobility to customers through an improvement of charging service, infrastructure deployment, the use of recycled materials, and an overall energy management system that includes second-life use of lithium-ion batteries; and

WHEREAS, as residents of the Volunteer State, we can all appreciate the responsibility we have to our environment, our economy, and our community and, by purchasing the Nissan LEAF, we can promote alternative energy, conservation, and local industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge Tennesseans to buy the Nissan LEAF, the world's first affordable all-electric vehicle, in order to promote sustainable mobility, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and resolve current conflicts surrounding the Keystone XL Pipeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.