

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 507

By Reedy

A RESOLUTION relative to a sustainable energy-abundance plan for Tennessee to meet future energy needs with affordable, abundant, and environmentally friendly energy.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has many finite natural energy resources; and

WHEREAS, world energy demand and usage are expected to increase; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the country's energy future to provide abundant base-load power and peaking energy-on-demand power affordably; and

WHEREAS, extending Tennessee's current energy boom will require the creation of a long-term energy plan and the development of clean and affordable energy technologies such as liquid core molten salt reactors and small modular reactors; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America possesses a nearly inexhaustible supply of thorium and uranium (more than a billion years' supply of energy) that dramatically exceeds all known potential energy reserves; and

WHEREAS, the elements thorium and uranium have the practical potential to provide unlimited energy resources for Tennesseans and Americans on demand in the near future and to provide many other tangible benefits; and

WHEREAS, better utilization of thorium and uranium in specially designed reactors such as molten salt reactors, including liquid fluoride thorium reactors, can provide energy security from other nations by utilizing Tennessee coal and a reactor's nuclear heat energy to produce an abundance of synthetic liquid transportation fuels. These synthetic fuels can be produced for many future generations of Tennesseans in a safe, affordable, and most environmentally friendly manner; and

WHEREAS, the efficient use of thorium or uranium in a specially designed molten salt reactor allows for greatly increased environmentally friendly energy production that improves the economics of many recycling technologies and raises the standard of living; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon this body to be forward-thinking in addressing the future energy challenges for the next generation of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is uniquely capable to commercialize small modular reactors, liquid core molten salt reactors, and integral fast reactors with its research and development assets of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where such technology was first developed, and other private companies and nonprofit organizations that specialize in nuclear technology development in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the academic, scientific, manufacturing, and business communities in Tennessee have some of the best talent and research and development records in the world. Development of this groundbreaking and economic game-changing technology would serve Tennessee's and America's economics better than current federal efforts to develop this technology in partnership with China; and

WHEREAS, advanced technology using thorium and uranium can affordably provide medical isotopes of materials for medical uses such as treating cancer and HIV/AIDS, diagnostic procedures, and improved health care; and

WHEREAS, S.99, the "American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2011," was signed into law by President Barack Obama on January 2, 2013, and mandates a reliable domestic supply of molybdenum-99 for medical imaging and diagnostics; and

WHEREAS, molybdenum-99 is used in more than sixteen million medical procedures annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, no domestic supply of molybdenum-99 currently exists, and present suppliers use old reactors that result in frequent supply disruptions; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, charged with licensing nuclear reactors, is not well-funded for establishing procedures for new, advanced reactor designs based on different architectures from today's fleet of light water reactors; and

WHEREAS, small modular reactors and liquid core molten salt reactors represent a business opportunity that Tennessee's manufacturing base is well-suited to exploit. This could potentially result in creating forty thousand manufacturing jobs in total within Tennessee, because these jobs have the ability to complement Tennessee's coal industry, oil industry, and natural gas hydraulic fracturing industry by increasing jobs in those industries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the General Assembly supports the creation of a long-term energy plan that addresses the long-term energy needs of the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly encourages and supports the research and development of liquid-core-molten-salt-reactor and small-modular-reactor technologies as a long-term solution to Tennessee's energy needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to mandate, and provide an adequate budget for, the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to establish rules for manufacturing, siting, and licensing of small modular reactors and liquid core molten salt reactors to be built and operated in the United States by private industry for the production of energy and medical isotopes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly supports investing in, acquiring grants for, implementing programs for, encouraging Tennessee institutions of higher learning to conduct research into, and attracting companies for the development of future technologies that will provide greater energy resources more affordably, abundantly, and in a more environmentally friendly manner than is being done at present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, the Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the

President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.