

1 COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Energy

2 POLICY: Energy Security

3 TYPE OF POLICY: Existing

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5 On August 29, 2005, the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) began a study entitled
6 “American Energy Security,” which analyzes the limitations of world oil production, the
7 consequences of rapid growth in energy demand from “developing” nations led by China and
8 India, and the significant vulnerabilities faced by the United States due to excessive
9 dependence on foreign sources of oil. The Study proposes a plan for America to establish
10 energy security and independence beginning in 2010 by replacing 5-percent of our oil imports
11 each year through 2030 utilizing domestically produced coal, biomass and oil shale. The
12 Study demonstrates that whereas world proven oil reserves equal roughly 3 trillion barrels,
13 the United States has between 2 trillion and 4 trillion barrels of oil equivalent available today
14 in the form of coal, biomass, and oil shale.

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16 To achieve these goals, the Study proposes the rapid development of large “poly-gen” energy
17 plants utilizing gasification technologies. Long-used in the chemical industry and overseas,
18 gasification technologies are capable of producing environmentally superior transportation
19 fuels, industrial and pipeline-quality synthetic natural gas, zero-emissions electricity,
20 hydrogen, chemicals for fertilizers, and enhanced oil and natural gas recovery using captured
21 carbon dioxide, all at stable, long-term costs below the current market prices for oil and
22 natural gas. Rapid deployment of these technologies, which would enhance current ethanol
23 and biodiesel initiatives already underway, could completely eliminate U.S. dependence on
24 foreign sources of oil by 2030.

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26 In addition to the national security benefits of this endeavor, the economic benefit to the
27 United States of developing this new “energy manufacturing” sector would be staggering.
28 Recent analysis prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy concluded that rapid deployment
29 over the next two decades of gasification technology using coal as a primary feedstock for
30 gaseous and liquid fuels would create nearly 1.5 million new, high-paying energy
31 manufacturing jobs in the United States; reduce our nation’s energy costs by 33 percent; and,

32 result in an aggregate GDP gain of more than \$3 trillion.

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34 The National Conference of State Legislators calls on the United States Congress to enact
35 the legislative recommendations of the Southern States Energy Board's American Energy
36 Security Study. Immediate Congressional action is needed to accelerate the deployment and
37 use of alternative transportation fuels produced from coal, biomass, and oil shale, in order to
38 begin to eliminate the United States' dependence on foreign sources of oil. Copies of this
39 policy position shall be forwarded to members of the Congress of the United States.

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