

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING**
20 **THE ENERGY POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

30 **WHEREAS:** U.S. law prohibits exploration in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and on the outer continental
40 shelves and severely restricts access to resources in the Rocky Mountains; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Overly restrictive leases and difficulties in acquiring permits to drill wells on government
60 land also limit natural gas production and,

70 **WHEREAS:** Untapped domestic energy resources should be explored and developed in order to lessen
80 the nation’s dependence on imports and vulnerability to disruptions supply; and,

90 **WHEREAS:** A dependable system to deliver this energy to industry and consumers is vital; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** Existing transmission constraints limit the flow of power and cause consumers to pay
110 higher prices for electricity, and insufficient domestic pipeline capacity has caused peak
120 load problems in moving oil and petroleum products from one region of the country to
130 another; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** Improvement and expansion of the nation’s electricity grid and pipeline systems are
150 needed to increase reliability, lower costs and prices, and meet increased demand; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** Many factors have contributed to the sharp increase in oil and natural gas prices in recent
170 years; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** While some factors are outside Washington’s control—most notably the rapidly growing
190 global demand for energy—others are the result of policy mistakes made by the federal
200 government during the 1990s; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** The 1990s were a time of relatively inexpensive fossil fuels. Oil averaged \$20 per barrel,
220 and natural gas averaged \$2 per thousand cubic feet, compared to \$56 and \$7.50,
230 respectively, in 2005; and,

240 **WHEREAS:** With energy prices so low, Washington took a complacent approach to America’s future
250 energy needs; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** For the decade, oil averaged \$20 per barrel, drivers became accustomed to paying about
270 \$1.25 per gallon for gasoline, and natural gas stayed near \$2 per thousand cubic feet; and,

280 **WHEREAS:** Since January of 2002, the price of crude has tripled, leaving oil producers awash in
290 profits. During that period, the top 10 major public oil companies have sold some \$1.5
300 trillion worth of crude, pocketing profits of more than \$125 billion; and,

310 **WHEREAS:** Politics must be set aside on this vital issue, and a comprehensive compromise must be
320 adopted to get the energy policy of the United States headed in the right direction.

330 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature (MSL) urges the United
340 States Congress and the President to adopt a comprehensive energy policy; and,

350 **BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED:** That any comprehensive policy include, but not be limited to the
360 following initiatives: a.) tax credits for all automobiles using hybrid and/or alternative
370 energy sources, b.) surtaxes on automobiles that get an average fuel efficiency of 15/mpg
380 or less (using the additional revenues from this tax for R & D for alternative sources of
390 energy), c.) tax credits for energy companies that donate at least 20% of their annual

400 profits to R & D for alternative sources of energy while charging a surtax on those oil
410 companies that do not spend at least 5% of their annual profits on R & D, and d.)
420 allowing offshore drilling and exploration as well as domestic drilling and exploration for
430 sources of energy to include, but not be limited to the Gulf of Mexico and ANWR.

440 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
450 Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
460 Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
470 Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
480 House Majority Leader John Boehner
490 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

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