

R044-0708

10 **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ENERGY INDEPEDENCE & EXTORTION OF**
20 **THE UNITED STATES**

30 **WHEREAS:** Exxon Mobil is locked in a dispute over the nationalization of its oil ventures in
40 Venezuela; and,

50 **WHEREAS:** Venezuela is currently the United States' fourth largest oil supplier; and,

60 **WHEREAS:** The dispute has led President Hugo Chavez to threaten to cut off all
70 Venezuelan oil supplies to the United States; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Chavez had forged an alliance with Fidel Castro, the Cuban president who has
90 been in conflict with the United States since 1959; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** Chavez has basically rewritten the constitution of Venezuela, stacked the courts
110 and begun throwing political opponents into jail; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** In further aggression against the United States, Chavez is buying advanced
130 Russian fighter planes and helicopters, dramatically increasing the size of his
140 armed forces and integrating it with Cuba's; and,

150 **WHEREAS:** Maria-Corina Machado, the leader of the opposition against Chavez, faces prison
160 time for simply taking grant money from the National Endowment for
170 Democracy, a program of the United States Congress; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** On February 12, 2008, Hugo Chavez and the Venezuelan government threatened
190 to cut off all oil supplies to the United States if we continue to support the Irving,
200 Texas based Exxon Mobil oil company; and,

210 **WHEREAS:** The threats against the United States by President Chavez are tantamount to
220 extortion; and,

230 **WHEREAS:** During the first Gulf War, Saddam Hussein advocated the Organization of the
240 Petroleum Exporting Countries to push world oil prices up to help Iraq in the
250 war; and,

260 **WHEREAS:** Since the 1973 Oil Crisis, OPEC has used their position in the world market to
270 pressure other countries into bending to their will by threatening to raise their
280 prices; and,

290 **WHEREAS:** Unless the United States works to stop our dependence on foreign oil from
300 OPEC or countries such as Venezuela, we will be vulnerable to this same
310 extortion until such time that we do end our dependence on foreign oil and
320 natural gas; and,

330 **WHEREAS:** Building more oil platforms and refineries in offshore areas we know to have oil
340 will help us increase our independence from foreign oil until such time that we
350 develop alternative fuels further; and,

360 **WHEREAS:** If car companies are provided with large cash incentives to build automobiles
370 that get very high miles to the gallon then the cash we give these companies will
380 pay for itself as our gas prices are no longer driven up by the whim of the likes of
390 Chavez and OPEC; and,

400 **WHEREAS:** Citizens using alternative means of energy to power and heat their homes will
410 reduce our dependence on natural gas from CITGO, a company owned by
420 Venezuela, and oil or natural gas taken from other OPEC countries; and,

430 **WHEREAS:** Cars such as the BMW Hydrogen 7 totally cut out the use of gasoline totally that
440 would greatly reduce our dependence of foreign oil even if only a small
450 percentage of the population were to drive them; and,

460 **WHEREAS:** There are many initiatives to get the ethanol market up in automobiles, these
470 automobiles would also reduce our dependence on foreign oil if they were to be
480 able to run exclusively on ethanol fuel; and,

490 **WHEREAS:** Implementing the options outlined above will allow us to greatly reduce our
500 dependence on oil from countries that seek to bend us to their whim by extorting
510 policy decisions out of us with threats of higher oil prices.

520 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That, to plant the seeds of energy independence and
530 to keep the United States from being extorted by Hugo Chavez and other nations,
540 the Maryland Student Legislature urges President George W. Bush and the
550 United States Congress to begin exploring the options of drilling for oil off the
560 coasts of Florida and California.

570 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Congress
580 to pass and the president to sign a bill that would authorize new oil refineries to
590 be built for the purposes of the processing oil that would be extracted off the
600 coasts of Florida and California.

610 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Congress
620 to pass and the President to sign a bill that would offer significant rewards to a
630 car company that can develop a car that gets one hundred miles to the gallon and begin
640 production of such vehicles.

650 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Congress
660 to pass and the President to sign a bill that will give tax credits to homeowners
670 and builders who incorporate alternative energy systems in their homes.

680 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Congress
690 to pass and the President to sign a bill that will give car companies incentives to
700 create automobiles that run on alternative energy sources, such as the BMW
710 Hydrogen 7.

720 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Congress
730 to pass and the President to sign a bill that would grant further incentives to car
740 companies to make more ethanol efficient vehicles.

750 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush
760 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
770 Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
780 Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
790 Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader
800 John Boehner, House Minority Leader
810 Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy
820 Dr. Norbert Reithofer, Chairman BMW

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