

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1024

By: Cotner, Fallin, Johnson
(Rob), Adair, Apple,
Benson, Breckinridge,
Henshaw, Kinnamon, Rice
and Taylor

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution memorializing Congress to oppose an energy or BTU tax; stating that an energy tax would have a harmful and negative impact on Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, President Clinton and his administration have proposed an economic package which includes a federal energy tax based upon the heat content of fossil fuels, as measured in British thermal units, or BTUs; and

WHEREAS, the tax would be levied on most fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas at a basic rate of just over twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per million BTUs, and oil would be taxed at approximately sixty cents (\$0.60) per million BTUs; and

WHEREAS, the tax would be phased in over three (3) years beginning in 1994 and would automatically increase with inflation after 1997; and

WHEREAS, the proposed BTU tax could put over 9,000 Oklahomans out of work; and

WHEREAS, the tax will increase the cost of energy for the Oklahoma household, and when fully implemented, Oklahomans will pay fifteen percent (15%) more in energy taxes than the national average; and

WHEREAS, Oklahomans will pay an additional eight cents (\$0.08) per gallon of gasoline under the proposed tax, increasing the total state and federal taxes on a gallon of gasoline for Oklahomans to forty-four cents (\$0.44) per gallon; and

WHEREAS, Oklahomans already pay approximately \$11.2 billion in federal taxes and the energy tax will cost Oklahomans an additional \$371 million; and

WHEREAS, the BTU tax will force Oklahomans to pay more for almost all consumer products, as higher energy prices are passed on to the consumer; and

WHEREAS, poor and middle-class Oklahomans would suffer the most under the energy tax in that a greater portion of their income would be spent on utilities and fuel bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby memorializes the United States Congress to oppose any legislation proposing an energy or BTU tax in that such a tax would have an extremely harmful and negative impact on Oklahomans and Oklahoma's economy, including thousands of lost jobs and increased energy and consumer costs.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

44-1-7256

JAF