

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE JOINT  
RESOLUTION NO. 6

By: Easley

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution prohibiting the Oklahoma State Legislature and the Governor from implementing the Kyoto Protocol on Global Climate Change until such protocol is ratified by the United States Senate; authorizing certain voluntary participation in various programs; providing effective date; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, a protocol to expand the scope of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Global Climate Change was negotiated in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, and such Kyoto Protocol was signed by the United State Government in November 1998, such protocol, which if ratified by the United States Senate would require the United States to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and methane by seven percent (7%) from 1990 emission levels during the period 2008 to 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate has not yet received the Kyoto Protocol for its consideration; and

WHEREAS, economic impact studies by the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, an independent agency of the United States Government, estimate that legally binding requirements for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the United States, sharply increased electric service rates, reduced family incomes and wages, and severe losses of output in energy-intensive industries such as aluminum, steel, rubber, chemicals, and utilities; and

WHEREAS, increased emissions of greenhouse gases by developing countries would offset any potential climate change benefits associated with emissions reductions achieved by the United States and by other industrial nations; and

WHEREAS, federal implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, if ratified by the United States Senate, would entail new Congressional legislation whose form and requirements cannot be predicted at this time, but could include national energy taxes or emission control allocation and trading schemes preempting state-specific programs intended to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, piecemeal or other regulatory initiatives pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol intended to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases may be inconsistent with subsequent Congressional determinations concerning the Kyoto Protocol, or with related federal legislation implementing the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, individual state responses to the Kyoto Protocol, including development of new regulatory programs intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are premature prior to United States Senate ratification of the Protocol, in its current or amended form.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH LEGISLATURE:

THAT neither the legislative nor executive branch of the State of Oklahoma shall take actions to implement the Kyoto Protocol until such time as the Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by the United States Senate.

THAT nothing in this resolution shall be construed to limit or to impede state or private participation in any on going voluntary initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases, including, but not limited to, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Green Lights program, the United States Department of Energy's Climate Challenge program and similar state and federal initiatives relying on voluntary participation; provided, however, that such participation

does not involve any allocation or other distribution of greenhouse gas emission entitlements pursuant to or under color of the Kyoto Protocol. Further, nothing contained herein shall prohibit industry from complying with the Oklahoma Clean Air Act, nor the Department of Environmental Quality from carrying out its duties under the Oklahoma Clean Air Act, nor the Environmental Quality Board from promulgating rules to maintain or achieve compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act.

THAT this resolution shall remain in full force and effect until repealed by the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma, or until such time as the Kyoto Protocol is ratified by the United States Senate.

THAT the Secretary of State shall distribute copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, and the members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation.

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