

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 74

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator EDWARD DURR

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators O'Scanlon, Oroho, Polistina, Doherty, Connors, Stanfield, Testa, Schepisi, Pennacchio, A.M.Bucco, Corrado, Thompson, Singer and Holzapfel

SYNOPSIS

Urges US Congress and President to increase domestic energy production and lessen regulatory barriers thereto.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)

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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress and
2 President to increase domestic energy production, and lessen
3 regulatory barriers thereto, within the country.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The United States relies, and will continue to rely for many
6 years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel despite the recent focus on
7 renewable energy and alternative sources of energy; and
8 **WHEREAS**, In order to fuel the country's economy, the United States
9 will need more oil and natural gas while also requiring additional
10 alternative energy sources; and
11 **WHEREAS**, The United States has been facing high gas prices for
12 months, but gas prices have been further exacerbated by Russia's
13 unprovoked invasion of Ukraine; and
14 **WHEREAS**, The national average price for a gallon of gas has
15 surpassed four dollars, which is the highest national average since
16 2008; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Russia is the second largest exporter of crude oil, after
18 Saudi Arabia, and the European Union imports approximately 40
19 percent of its natural gas from Russia; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Europe's dependence on Russia for energy has limited the
21 international response to Russia's invasion, with sanctions being
22 specifically designed not to target Russia's fuel exports amid fears
23 that such a move could result in significantly increased energy
24 prices throughout Europe and worldwide; and
25 **WHEREAS**, The Ukraine crisis prompted a meeting of the International
26 Energy Agency Board, at which 31 member countries agreed to
27 release 60 million barrels of oil from their strategic reserves with 30
28 million of the barrels being provided by the United States; and
29 **WHEREAS**, It is more important than ever for the United States to
30 achieve greater energy independence and further enhance national
31 security by reducing reliance on energy from the Middle East,
32 Russia, and Venezuela; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Oil from the Middle East, Russia, and Venezuela comes
34 with increased price volatility and requires partnerships with
35 unstable regimes and leaders with competing political interests; and
36 **WHEREAS**, On March 4, 2022, 25 governors signed a letter calling
37 upon President Biden to restore this country's energy independence
38 by increasing domestic energy production and lessening regulatory
39 barriers to domestic energy production; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The letter specifically requested President Biden remove
41 bans on new oil and gas development on federal lands, reinstate
42 regulatory reforms to streamline energy permitting, incentivize
43 energy production on idle lands, and approve the construction of oil
44 and natural gas pipelines within the county, including reapproving
45 construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline; and
46 **WHEREAS**, On March 29, 2019, President Trump issued a Presidential
47 Permit to begin construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which
48 would have connected the United States oil supply to oil fields in

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1 the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin in Alberta, providing oil
2 to the United States at a rate of up to 830,000 barrels per day, but
3 this permit for construction was revoked on January 20, 2021, by
4 President Biden; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Securing and fostering a mutually beneficial trade
6 relationship with Canada, one of this country's strongest allies and
7 neighbors, with regard to these oil supplies, would have increased
8 the country's energy independence, lowered the cost of gasoline,
9 produced up to 11,000 high-paying jobs for United States citizens,
10 and resulted in more stable trade relationships; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Increasing domestic energy production within the United
12 States would result in enhanced national security, lower oil and gas
13 prices, and higher energy independence and for these reasons, it is
14 crucial for the Congress and the President of the United States to
15 increase, and lessen regulatory barriers to, domestic energy
16 production within the country; now, therefore,

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18 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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20 1. This House urges the Congress and the President of the
21 United States to increase domestic energy production, and lessen
22 regulatory barriers thereto, within the country.

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24 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
25 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President
26 and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority
27 Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority
28 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary
29 of the United States Department of Energy, and every member of
30 Congress elected from this State.

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33 STATEMENT

34
35 This resolution urges the Congress and the President of the
36 United States to increase domestic energy production, and lessen
37 regulatory barriers thereto, within the country.

38 The United States relies, and will continue to rely for many
39 years, on gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel despite the recent focus on
40 renewable energy and alternative sources of energy. In order to fuel
41 the country's economy, the United States will need more oil and
42 natural gas while also developing additional alternative energy
43 sources. Gas prices have been high across the country for months.
44 These gas prices have been further exacerbated by Russia's
45 unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Europe's current dependence on
46 Russia for energy has limited the international response to Russia's
47 invasion, with sanctions being specifically designed not to target
48 Russia's fuel exports amid fears that such a move could result in

1 significantly increased energy prices throughout Europe and
2 worldwide.

3 It is more important than ever for the United States to achieve
4 greater energy independence and further enhance national security
5 by reducing reliance on energy from the Middle East, Russia, and
6 Venezuela. Oil from the Middle East, Russia, and Venezuela comes
7 with increased price volatility and requires partnerships with
8 unstable regimes and leaders with competing political interests.

9 On March 4, 2022, 25 governors signed a letter calling upon
10 President Biden to restore this country's energy independence by
11 increasing domestic energy production and lessening regulatory
12 barriers to domestic energy production. The letter specifically
13 requested President Biden remove bans on new oil and gas
14 development on federal lands, reinstate regulatory reforms to
15 streamline energy permitting, incentivize energy production on idle
16 lands, and approve the construction of oil and natural gas pipelines
17 within the country, including reapproving construction of the
18 Keystone XL Pipeline.

19 Increasing domestic energy production within the United States
20 would result in enhanced national security, lower oil and gas prices,
21 and higher energy independence and for these reasons, it is crucial
22 for Congress and the President of the United States to increase, and
23 lessen regulatory barriers to, domestic energy production within the
24 country.