

By: Representatives Ray, *Boyd, Bragg, C. Cooper, Haak, Hawks, McCollum, Pilkington, Underwood, Vaught, Wing, Beaty Jr., Furman, Bryant, Cozart, Ladyman, Carr, Brown, McClure, Milligan, Payton, Christiansen, Tollett, B. Smith, McGrew, Hollowell, Coleman, Evans, M. Gray, Beck, Rye, Crawford*

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PURSUE POLICIES TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE, ALLOW NEW LEASES ON FEDERAL LANDS AND FEDERAL WATERS, AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO FUTURE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ENSURING AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY PRODUCED DOMESTICALLY.

### Subtitle

TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO APPROVE THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE, ALLOW NEW LEASES, AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO FUTURE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, with a stroke of a pen on January 20, 2021, President Biden cancelled the Keystone XL Pipeline, immediately impacting eleven thousand (11,000) families through current and future job losses, including the largest employer at Port of Little Rock, Welspun Tubular, LLC, which held contracts to supply one hundred ninety (190) miles of pipe and was hiring additional employees in anticipation of the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline despite the economic downturn due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, with a second stroke of a pen on January 27, 2021, President Biden shifted America's bright energy future into reverse and set the United States on a path toward greater reliance on foreign energy produced with



lower environmental standards by putting a moratorium on all new oil and natural gas leases on federal lands and federal waters; and

WHEREAS, a federal leasing and development ban would cost nearly one million (1,000,000) American jobs by 2022 and put nine billion dollars (\$9,000,000,000) in government revenue at risk, while states will lose hundreds of millions of dollars from mineral royalties shared by the United States Government that fund schools, infrastructure, and environmental projects; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of these policies will result in residential consumers spending nineteen billion dollars (\$19,000,000,000) more on energy by 2030; and

WHEREAS, this decision appears to be a first step toward a policy of banning natural gas and oil development on federal lands and waters. Coal use will have to increase by fifteen percent (15%) to account for the deficit, and carbon dioxide emissions in the power sector will increase by an average of fifty-eight million (58,000,000) metric tons by 2030; and

WHEREAS, presidents over the past thirty (30) years have advocated for the United States to be energy independent, which is finally close to being fully realized; and

WHEREAS, current policies by the President of the United States could lead to increases in oil imports by two million (2,000,000) barrels per day and reduce natural gas exports by eight hundred billion cubic feet (800,000,000,000 cu. ft.) by 2030; and

WHEREAS, today oil and natural gas comprise about sixty percent (60%) of the global energy supply and are projected by the International Energy Agency to remain over fifty percent (50%) by 2040; and

WHEREAS, according to a scenario developed by the International Energy Agency, every country that meets its Paris Agreement commitments will still have natural gas and oil comprising approximately forty-six percent (46%) of

their energy portfolio in 2040; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the leader in the world for reducing greenhouse gases through the conversion of coal utility plants to natural gas; and

WHEREAS, ninety-three percent (93%) of voters find that it is important for the United States to produce enough energy to avoid being dependent on other countries, and seventy-three percent (73%) believe that natural gas and oil will remain a significant part of America's energy needs in 2040; and

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy, essentially drawn from an all-of-the-above approach in a competitive market, is essential to a thriving economy,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the United States Congress and the Arkansas congressional delegation:

(1) Pursue policies of energy independence over foreign dependence while creating American jobs and leading to economic revival rather than small-town decline;

(2) Promote domestic energy infrastructure through approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline and removing barriers that prevent or slow new oil and natural gas pipelines;

(3) Allow future exploration and production on federal lands and federal waters to ensure reliable and affordable energy for the citizens of the United States;

(4) Pursue policies that promote innovation through competitive markets to reduce greenhouse gases rather than the selection of winners and losers through incentives or over-regulation; and

(5) Continue to pursue policies that encourage domestic oil and natural gas production, which results in lower greenhouse gas emissions and a cleaner, healthier environment than oil and natural gas produced elsewhere in

the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority leader of the United States Senate, and all members of the Arkansas congressional delegation with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record.

*/s/Ray*