

3. POLICY POSITION

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

BACKGROUND

The development and implementation of a comprehensive and balanced national energy policy is crucial in recognizing that the nation's economy and security depends upon adequate energy resources at reasonable prices. The oil embargoes of the 1970s demonstrated our vulnerability to over-reliance on foreign resources. More recently, the Middle East situation further highlighted the need for a more efficient, less vulnerable, and environmentally sustainable energy future -- without over-reliance on any single energy resource -- to avoid a future "energy-crisis" and the contribution imported oil has made to the excessive trade balance which is adding in excess of 40 percent to the already staggering U. S. trade deficit.

RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference supports and urges the U. S. Congress to adopt a comprehensive national energy policy that reduces dependence on potentially unreliable foreign sources of oil through a balanced program of energy conservation and efficiency improvements, research and development of renewable and alternative energy sources, and increased production and use of domestic energy resources in a manner which protects public health, safety, and the environment.

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