



MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT 2014 YOUTH CONFERENCE ON STATE ISSUES

COMMITTEE: Energy

RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

1. Recognizing that Minnesotans are highly dependent on energy,
2. Concerned that the rapidly growing ethanol industry is causing environmental concerns, including the destruction of farmland, decreasing air quality, and soil depletion,
3. Acknowledging that ethanol is half as efficient as petroleum as a fuel and still creates a substantial carbon footprint,
4. Aware that a portion of Minnesota's energy is already extracted from renewable sources, implemented through renewable energy portfolios,
5. Grieved that emissions from unsustainable energy sources are harming our environment.
6. Stressing that sustainable energy sources are critical in preserving generations to come,
7. Fully aware of the environmental risks posed by fossil fuels, such as increased GHG emissions, the contamination of the scarce water supply, rising sea levels, spread of diseases, water depletion, air pollution, thermal pollution, and destruction of the ecosystem,
8. Conscious that solar energy is inexpensive, has zero emissions, large energy capacity, and can be individualized.
9. Recognizing that wind power has zero emissions and that Minnesota has the 11th out highest wind potential in the country,
 - a. Encourages the gradual reduction of the use of ethanol in motored vehicles and factories,
 - b. Calls upon the state government to increase funding towards implementing and researching renewable energy sources, such as wind power, solar power, and hydroelectric power,
 - c. Urges all companies to make both short-term and long-term renewable energy goals to decrease carbon emissions,
 - d. Suggests that solar energy companies lease solar panels to both other companies and residents,
 - e. Further instructs the state government to institute a carbon tax on businesses of \$4-34 per ton emitted based on the size of the company,
 - f. Approves the use of funds collected from the carbon tax for research on renewable energy to increase efficiency
 - g. Supports the implementation of a smart grid system to distribute power across the state of Minnesota,
 - h. Encourages the introduction of a campaign promoting renewable energy and saving energy in schools, grades kindergarten through 12th grade,
 - i. Directs schools to incorporate environmental science units into grades K-5 science curriculums,
 - j. Authorizes the state government to assess the success of this resolution in the year 2025 and to make further adjustments.