

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 280

To provide for the development and implementation of a comprehensive energy conservation plan for the United States Congress.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. FURSE, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SKAGGS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. LIPINSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To provide for the development and implementation of a comprehensive energy conservation plan for the United States Congress.

Whereas Congress passed the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (NECPA) in 1978 to provide major policy guidance to Federal agencies to improve energy management in their facilities and operations;

Whereas Congress amended NECPA in 1988 through the Federal Energy Management Improvement Act, and required each Federal agency to achieve a 10 percent reduction in energy consumption in its Federal buildings by fiscal year 1995, when measured against a fiscal year 1985 baseline on a Btu-per-gross-square-foot basis,

Whereas the Federal Energy Management Improvement Act directed the Department of Energy to establish life cycle costing methods and coordinate Federal conservation activities through the Interagency Energy Management Task Force;

Whereas Congress amended NECPA in 1992 through the Energy Policy Act (EPACT), which contains provisions regarding energy management requirements, life cycle cost methods and procedures, budget treatment for energy conservation measures, incentives for Federal facility energy managers, reporting requirements, new technology demonstrations and agency surveys of energy saving potential, and required a minimum 20 percent energy reduction in Btu-per-gross-square-foot energy costs by fiscal year 2000 as compared with energy consumption in fiscal year 1985;

Whereas President Clinton issued Executive Order 12902 on March 8, 1994, which expanded the scope of Federal energy management and established a 30 percent reduction goal in energy costs for Federal buildings and a 20 percent goal for industrial facilities by 2005 as compared to 1985 consumption levels on a Btu-per-gross-square foot basis;

Whereas Congress passed the Congressional Accountability Act in 1995 to ensure that Congress and its Members comply with the laws Congress mandates for our Nation;

Whereas Congress does not comply with the energy conservation standards it has established for Federal agencies;

Whereas Congress expended \$32,733,024 in 1997 on energy costs and has witnessed greater energy expenditures each year during the past 7 years;

Whereas the Architect of the Capitol should be commended for the completion of several energy conservation projects on the congressional campus during the past 5 years that have saved taxpayers significant resources;

Whereas a number of the Architect of the Capitol's projects to conserve energy have been delayed and frustrated because Congress has not appropriated adequate resources in a timely manner for crucial projects to be completed;

Whereas Congress should set an example for the Nation by implementing a comprehensive, efficient, and cost-effective long-term energy conservation program for all buildings and facilities under its administration; and

Whereas Congress should comply with the energy conservation standards it has established for Federal agencies, save taxpayers' dollars, and reduce its contribution to air pollution and the disbursement of greenhouse gases through energy conservation: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Architect of the Capitol—

3            (1) shall develop and implement a cost-effective  
4        energy conservation strategy for all facilities cur-  
5        rently administered by Congress to achieve a net re-  
6        duction of 20 percent in energy consumption on the  
7        congressional campus compared to fiscal year 1991  
8        consumption levels on a Btu-per-gross-square-foot  
9        basis not later than 7 years after the adoption of  
10       this resolution;

1           (2) shall submit to Congress no later than 10  
2       months after the adoption of this resolution a com-  
3       prehensive energy conservation and management  
4       plan which includes life cycle costs methods to deter-  
5       mine the cost-effectiveness of proposed energy effi-  
6       ciency projects;

7           (3) shall submit to the Committee on Appro-  
8       priations in the Senate and the House of Represent-  
9       atives a request for the amount of appropriations  
10      necessary to carry out this resolution;

11          (4) shall present to Congress annually a report  
12      on congressional energy management and conserva-  
13      tion programs which details energy expenditures for  
14      each facility, energy management and conservation  
15      projects, and future priorities to ensure compliance  
16      with the requirements of this resolution;

17          (5) shall perform energy surveys of all congres-  
18      sional buildings and update such surveys as needed;

19          (6) shall use such surveys to determine the cost  
20      and payback period of energy and water conserva-  
21      tion measures likely to achieve the required energy  
22      consumption levels;

23          (7) shall install energy and water conservation  
24      measures that will achieve the requirements through

1 previously determined life cycle cost methods and  
2 procedures;

3 (8) may contract with nongovernmental entities  
4 and employ private sector capital to finance energy  
5 conservation projects and achieve energy consump-  
6 tion targets;

7 (9) may develop innovative contracting methods  
8 that will attract private sector funding for the instal-  
9 lation of energy-efficient and renewable energy tech-  
10 nology to meet the requirements of this resolution;

11 (10) may participate in the Department of En-  
12 ergy's Financing Renewable Energy and Efficiency  
13 (FREE Savings) contracts program for Federal  
14 Government facilities; and

15 (11) shall produce information packages and  
16 "how-to" guides for each Member and employing au-  
17 thority of the Congress that detail simple, cost-effec-  
18 tive methods to save energy and taxpayer dollars.

○