

House Resolution 36 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY ISENHART, ANDERSON, HANSON, MASCHER, McCONKEY,
WOLFE, STUTSMAN, STAED, WINCKLER, BENNETT, GASKILL,
ABDUL-SAMAD, T. TAYLOR, HEDDENS, COHOON, OLDSON,
KRESSIG, WESSEL-KROESCHELL, DUNKEL, DAWSON, FORBES,
GAINES, HUNTER, BROWN-POWERS, LENSING, OLSON,
KEARNS, OURTH, BERRY, STECKMAN, SMITH, and KELLEY

1 A Resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the
2 enactment of landmark energy efficiency legislation.

3 WHEREAS, landmark energy efficiency legislation,
4 which has been referred to as the Iowa Energy
5 Efficiency Act, was adopted by the General Assembly and
6 signed into law by Governor Terry E. Branstad 25 years
7 ago; and

8 WHEREAS, the legislation established a state goal of
9 more efficiently utilizing energy resources, especially
10 resources that are renewable or have positive
11 environmental impacts, in order to enhance the state's
12 economy and of decreasing the state's dependence on
13 outside energy resources by reducing the amount of
14 energy used; and

15 WHEREAS, the legislation directed that this goal
16 be implemented through programs that promote energy
17 efficiency and energy conservation by all Iowans,
18 through the development and enhancement of an energy
19 efficiency industry, through the utilization of
20 indigenous energy resources that are economically and
21 environmentally viable, and through effective public
22 information and education programs; and

23 WHEREAS, Iowa ranked 11th among the 50 states on the

1 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard for Utilities and
2 Public Benefits Energy Efficiency Programs, according
3 to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient
4 Economy; and

5 WHEREAS, energy efficiency firms employ an estimated
6 10,000 Iowa workers, comprising almost half of Iowa's
7 advanced energy industry; and

8 WHEREAS, \$1.8 billion in ratepayer-funded energy
9 efficiency initiatives by Iowa's investor-owned
10 utilities since 1990 have achieved an estimated 5
11 million megawatt hours in cumulative savings, as well
12 as significant reductions in electricity demand and
13 natural gas consumption; and

14 WHEREAS, the energy efficiency measures of
15 Iowa's municipal electric and natural gas utilities
16 implemented by their customer-owners in recent years
17 will save over 1 million megawatt hours of electricity
18 and over 14 million therms of natural gas over the life
19 of the measures installed; and

20 WHEREAS, Iowa's electric cooperatives have invested
21 over \$200 million into local efficiency programs for
22 the benefit of their member-owners over the last 25
23 years; and

24 WHEREAS, Iowa's public building energy benchmarking
25 program has assessed over 2,000 buildings for 103
26 public organizations, identifying total potential
27 annual energy savings of more than 1 million British
28 thermal units per year for a potential cost savings of
29 more than \$14 million per year; and

30 WHEREAS, 421 building projects in Iowa have achieved

1 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design status
2 through the United States Green Building Council,
3 comprising more than 33 million square feet, which is
4 equivalent to 12 Empire State Buildings, with each
5 project achieving at least a 12 percent improvement in
6 energy efficiency; and

7 WHEREAS, state energy code updates since 1990 have
8 required newly-designed buildings to be at least 35
9 percent more efficient in their energy use; and

10 WHEREAS, utilities engage in community-based
11 initiatives that have exceeded expectations, including,
12 for example, the City of Fairfield, which achieved an
13 8.5 percent reduction in overall energy consumption
14 over an 18-month period, and the Winneshiek Energy
15 District, which has helped hundreds of households,
16 businesses, and farms generate more than \$3 million in
17 savings to date; and

18 WHEREAS, the Iowa Utilities Board and the staff
19 of the state's Office of Consumer Advocate have
20 been recognized by their peers for their leadership
21 and example in modeling best practices in energy
22 efficiency and demonstrating collaboration with other
23 stakeholders; and

24 WHEREAS, energy efficiency is the cleanest and
25 lowest-cost energy resource available to meet and
26 offset consumer energy consumption and demand, and
27 abundant opportunities for cost-effective energy
28 efficiency continue to exist in Iowa for homeowners,
29 multi-family residences, business and industry, public
30 buildings, and nonprofit organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, polling in Midwest states including Iowa
2 shows that 95 percent of voters, regardless of age,
3 gender, income, or political affiliation, support
4 or strongly support increasing the use of energy
5 efficiency to meet the state's future energy needs; NOW
6 THEREFORE,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
8 the House of Representatives commends all Iowans who
9 have contributed their time, expertise, passion, and
10 initiative to make Iowa a leader in energy efficiency;
11 and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
13 Representatives renews its commitment to pursue energy
14 efficiency as a primary strategy for meeting this
15 state's energy needs, to be achieved through continued
16 incorporation of energy efficiency in integrated
17 resource planning processes by utilities; aggressive
18 energy efficiency goals, policies, and implementation
19 plans that optimize cost-effective energy efficiency
20 practices; a robust energy efficiency marketplace;
21 aggressive energy efficiency education; engagement
22 with community-based energy efficiency stakeholders
23 and initiatives; consistent and reliable accounting of
24 energy efficiency investments and results; and state
25 program administration and regulatory oversight systems
26 by the Iowa Utilities Board and the Office of Consumer
27 Advocate that assure alignment of stakeholder interests
28 and energy efficiency goals; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each public institution
30 or agency, private organization, and citizen is

H.R. 36

1 encouraged to consider the role they can play and to
2 take action to further the vision set forth in what
3 is referred to as the Iowa Energy Efficiency Act and
4 to contribute to an energy efficient and clean energy
5 future for Iowa.