

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

SCR 1

4
5 By: Senator E. Williams
6 By: Representative Beck

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**
9 SUPPORTING THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED, INNOVATIVE
10 ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 SUPPORTING THE DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED,
15 INNOVATIVE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
16 TECHNOLOGY.

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18 WHEREAS, a secure, reliable, and resilient power grid integrating
19 generation resources in Arkansas serves as a foundation of a growing economy
20 and is critical to the state's energy security; and

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22 WHEREAS, regulators, policy-makers, and consumers expect generating
23 resources and the grid to perform extremely reliably in Arkansas; and

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25 WHEREAS, a significant portion of the state's transmission facilities
26 are aged and will require a replacement strategy; and

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28 WHEREAS, environmental regulations, state and federal tax policies,
29 other economic factors, and technology developments are causing some electric
30 generation resources to retire, while replacement generation, some of it
31 fueled by intermittent resources, is being sited at other locations on the
32 electric grid; and

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34 WHEREAS, new, innovative and cost-effective transmission technologies,
35 including without limitation high-capacity/high-efficiency conductors, and
36 compact transmission towers, that are commercially available may increase



1 grid capacity, improve energy transfers, promote greater stability and
2 resiliency, make more efficient use of rights-of-way, reduce transmission
3 line losses, and help to streamline siting and construction activities; and
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5 WHEREAS, new and advanced replacement transmission facilities may be
6 designed to enable a wide variety of new generating resources and may address
7 technical, environmental, and aesthetic issues that might impede or limit the
8 development and operation of these resources; and
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10 WHEREAS, crowded utility corridors often allow little room for
11 expansion; and
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13 WHEREAS, some states have established policies that encourage the use
14 of advanced transmission line technologies; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Joint Interim Committee on Energy by its Interim
17 Resolution 2015-004, and the policies of the National Association of
18 Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Council of State Governments Southern
19 Legislative Conference representing fifteen (15) states, and the Southern
20 States Energy Board representing sixteen (16) states, Puerto Rico and the
21 U.S. Virgin Islands recognize the benefits of these technologies to modernize
22 the grid and to improve generating resource integration and encourage
23 electric utilities, grid operators, and state public service commissions to
24 consider the cost-effective use of these technologies,
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26 NOW THEREFORE,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
29 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:
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31 THAT the Ninety-First General Assembly encourages the Arkansas Public Service
32 Commission to support utility efforts to:

33 (1) Investigate and consider cost-effective new and advanced
34 transmission technologies when replacing aged transmission infrastructure;

35 (2) Evaluate new transmission technologies to determine whether
36 they can cost-effectively ensure the continued reliable delivery of

1 electricity while providing greater capacity and enhanced efficiency;

2 (3) Consider the ability of these technologies to cost-
3 effectively reduce environmental and visual impacts to communities; and

4 (4) Consider the ability of these and other technologies to
5 cost-effectively reduce the overall cost of energy delivery.

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ninety-First General Assembly
8 encourages the Arkansas Public Service Commission to work with regional
9 transmission organizations and other planning authorities as needed to
10 support and encourage consideration of those cost-effective advanced electric
11 transmission infrastructure options that can increase grid capacity, reduce
12 transmission line losses, improve energy transfers, make efficient use of
13 rights-of-way, improve energy efficiency, and help to streamline siting and
14 construction activities in their planning, evaluation, and oversight of
15 transmission grid development, especially by utilizing existing transmission
16 corridors.

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ninety-First General Assembly
19 encourages the Arkansas Public Service Commission to include in the
20 commission's oversight of transmission facilities consideration of the cost-
21 effective and appropriate use of advanced electric transmission technologies
22 in support of the commission's interest in the continued provision of
23 affordable, reliable electricity to consumers.

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the
26 Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy to the Governor, the Lieutenant
27 Governor, and applicable state and regional regulators, including without
28 limitation public service commissioners, energy department directors, and
29 regional transmission operators.

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