

House Concurrent Resolution No. 44

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SOMMER (Sponsor), CRAWFORD AND NOLTE (Co-sponsors).

5998L.011

1 **WHEREAS**, the cost of oil in 2001 in the United States averaged \$25.29 per barrel and
2 has increased to an all-time high of over \$132.00 per barrel in recent years; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, in January 2012, the cost of oil in the United States averaged over \$106.00
5 per barrel; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, the price of gasoline averaged \$1.51 per gallon in January 2001, and has
8 shot up to over \$4.21 in recent years; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, in February 2012, the cost of a gallon of gas in Missouri has climbed to
11 over \$3.45; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, these fuel and oil costs directly and indirectly negatively impact every
14 individual, business, and government agency in Missouri and in the United States; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the increased cost of fuel and oil increases the cost of travel and tourism
17 in Missouri; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, the increased cost of fuel is having serious impact of families struggling
20 to balance budgets and has increased product input costs making Missouri produced products
21 more expensive; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, higher oil prices have impacted governmental expenditures at a time of
24 tight budgets and revenue reductions; and

25 **WHEREAS**, individuals, businesses, and local governments cannot absorb the steep
26 increases of fuel without increasing costs, cutting vital services and negatively impacting the
27 lives of the general public; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, it is apparent that Congress does not have an effective plan to lower fuel
30 prices; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, Congress and the
33 Administration should find ways to facilitate the building of new refineries, and an increase in
34 production by permitting the uncapping of existing wells and the drilling of new wells; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, Congress and the Administration should strive to maintain a well-
37 functioning gasoline market for the good of the economy, without interfering in the marketplace.
38 Changes in federal regulation, introduction of fuel flexibility, removing impediments to
39 importation of fuel from Canada and Mexico, increasing refinery capacity and pipeline
40 construction, as well as greater domestic oil exploration and opening additional areas of
41 production would begin to ease the rising cost of fuels and reduce our dependence on foreign
42 sources of oil:

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44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
45 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
46 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress and the Obama
47 Administration to immediately seek long-term and short-term solutions to the rapidly rising fuel
48 costs to ease the financial burden on its individuals, businesses, governments and all consumers
49 in Missouri, and in the United States and to create and maintain energy independence for our
50 country; and

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52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
53 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
54 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and
55 House of Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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