

93^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 252

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 1973

Mr. STAGGERS (for himself and Mr. MACDONALD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the price of natural gas directly affects the cost of living incurred by all American citizens; and

Whereas the Federal Power Commission is required by the Natural Gas Act to prescribe just and reasonable rates on the basis of cost for natural gas; and

Whereas the Supreme Court has declared that the Federal Power Commission is obliged to "afford consumers a complete permanent and effective bond of protection from excessive rates and charges"; and

Whereas the Federal Power Commission has recently approved selective increases of 73 per centum above previously determined area rate ceilings in the price of natural gas, resulting in an estimated rate of return of 27.5 per centum,

almost doubling the previously established reasonable rate of return, and adding a severe economic burden on a large number of consumers; and

Whereas the legitimacy of such increases is challenged as tantamount to "deregulation" of producer rates in contravention of law; and

Whereas the Congress has under active review the question of whether or not a legitimate shortage in the available supply of natural gas exists whether or not such shortage is price induced or price curative; and

Whereas the Federal Trade Commission has a similar study in progress; and

Whereas the results of these studies and inquiries are essential to determining what shall constitute just and reasonable prices and rates of return: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate con-*
- 2 *curring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that, inasmuch
- 3 as there is at present inadequate information as to the avail-
- 4 able supply of natural gas, and since such needed informa-
- 5 tion will become available by January 1, 1974, that, prior
- 6 to January 1, 1974, it will be contrary to the public interest
- 7 for the Federal Power Commission to permit increases in the
- 8 price of natural gas above the administratively determined
- 9 area rate ceilings in effect on June 1, 1973: *Provided, That*
- 10 *the Commission may prior to January 1, 1974 consider and*

- 1 approve petitions for special relief from said rates pursuant to
- 2 section 154.109 (f) of the Commission's regulations in in-
- 3 stances where, based on an evidentiary record, the Commis-
- 4 sion finds such relief to be cost justified.

1st Session
93d Congress
H. CON. RES. 525

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

incurred prior to January 1, 1974, in certain
of natural gas should not be permitted to be
Exhibiting the sense of Congress that the price

By Mr. PARSONS and Mr. M. VANDERBILT

Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign
Trade, June 14, 1973
Committee

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the price of natural gas should not be permitted to be increased prior to January 1974, in certain cases.

By Mr. STAGGERS and Mr. MACDONALD

JUNE 14, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign
Commerce