

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

H

1

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1451

Sponsors: Representatives Dawkins, Edwards, Beard, Blue, Payne; Rhodes, Fussell, Hardaway, Buchanan, G. Wilson, and Bowman.

Referred to: Rules.

April 28, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION TO
2 INVESTIGATE LEGISLATION BEFORE THE CONGRESS WHICH WOULD
3 AUTHORIZE THE USE OF NORTH CAROLINA WATERS FOR THE
4 TRANSPORTATION OF COAL AND WOULD GRANT THE RIGHT OF
5 FEDERAL EMINENT DOMAIN OF COAL SLURRY PIPELINES.

6 Whereas, United States House Resolution 402, Eminent Domain for Coal
7 Slurry Pipelines, has once again been introduced and referred to the House Interior and
8 Public Works Committees after having been passed out of Committee as well as
9 defeated on the House floor several times in recent years; and

10 Whereas, North Carolina's water is a precious resource that is vitally
11 necessary and claimed for agricultural, domestic, recreational, and beneficial uses; and

12 Whereas, North Carolina's lakes and streams suffered near drought conditions
13 during the summer months of 1988; and

14 Whereas, coal slurry pipelines, by using ground water as a means of
15 transport, would seriously deplete water supplies in the Southeast, and would threaten
16 the Broad River, the Yadkin River, the Catawba River, the Pee Dee River, the Neuse
17 River, and the Cape Fear River which are vital to North Carolina agriculture; and

18 Whereas, coal slurry pipelines are actively opposed by numerous national and
19 North Carolina environmental and agricultural groups because they would take water
20 from arid mountain and midwest areas, and dump the contaminated water near our
21 major urban centers, denying a more productive use of this precious resource to our
22 farmers; and

1 Whereas, in addition to environmental and agricultural groups opposing coal
2 slurry pipelines, all major railroad companies, the American Association of Railroads,
3 the United Transportation Union and all railroad employees, actively oppose the
4 implementation of coal slurry pipelines because of the highly detrimental effect on the
5 rail industry, which relies heavily on the transport of coal to maintain its economic
6 vitality; and

7 Whereas, unit coal trains that currently transport vast quantities of coal to
8 North Carolina utilities in an efficient and timely manner would be eliminated; and

9 Whereas, most recent analysis states that for every single permanent job
10 created by coal slurry pipelines, approximately six permanent railroad jobs in North
11 Carolina would be lost, a result which would in turn have a severe damaging effect on
12 the Railroad Retirement System:

13 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

14 Section 1. There is established a Coal Slurry Eminent Domain Study
15 Commission to study the benefit to North Carolina residents and industry of coal slurry
16 pipelines and the right to condemn private property through eminent domain for their
17 construction.

18 Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.