

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable Harry Hughes, Governor of Maryland; Senators Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. and Paul S. Sarbanes, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Representatives Royden P. Dyson, Clarence D. Long, Barbara A. Mikulski, Marjorie S. Holt, Steny H. Hoyer, Beverly B. Byron, Parren J. Mitchell, and Michael D. Barnes, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable William Donald Schaefer, Mayor of the City of Baltimore; and to William F. Bolger, Postmaster General, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20260.

Signed May 10, 1983.

No. 19

(House Joint Resolution No. 3)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Natural Gas Prices

FOR the purpose of requesting the Congress of the United States, the Department of Energy of the United States, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to investigate and remedy the causes of the gas surplus, high prices, and declining markets.

WHEREAS, The Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA) provides for the gradual deregulation of natural gas in a manner intended to ease the burden upon consumers, and particularly residential and other small users of such a transition; and

WHEREAS, Contracts being signed for gas from wells already deregulated under the NGPA include provisions in some instances for 90 percent take-or-pay at prices of 110 percent of Number 2 fuel oil; and

WHEREAS, The American Gas Association has projected the average residential gas heating bill will more than double from \$390 in 1981 to \$826 in 1985 and to as much as \$977 under full deregulation; and

WHEREAS, Natural gas provides approximately 27 percent of the energy consumed in the United States and is used in approximately 55 percent of all residential and commercial establishments in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A U. S. Department of Energy analysis has identified the cost to industrial users of natural gas as an additional \$237 billion during the next 5 years under full deregulation; and