
Introduced by Senator Wiggins

February 11, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15—Relative to Earth Hour.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 15, as introduced, Wiggins. Earth Hour.

This measure would endorse efforts to raise awareness of global climate change and energy efficiency and would declare the hour of 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the last Saturday in March to be “Earth Hour” throughout the state. The measure would encourage city, county, and state employees, and businesses to turn off nonessential lights in government buildings, public schools, public landmarks, and other buildings for that hour on March 28, 2009.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Communities throughout California are affected
2 by the impacts of global warming and are gravely concerned about
3 the future health of our planet; and
4 WHEREAS, There is growing public support for action to stop
5 global warming, and communicating a desire for change is an
6 important part of democracy; and
7 WHEREAS, Earth Hour is both an international and local
8 symbolic event organized by the World Wildlife Fund to raise
9 awareness about climate change issues, to encourage businesses,
10 individuals, and governments to take actions to reduce their carbon
11 emissions and their impact on the environment in their daily lives
12 and operations; and
13 WHEREAS, Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses,
14 government agencies, and commercial and noncommercial

1 establishments to voluntarily turn off all nonessential lighting for
2 one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m. on March 28, 2009, and
3 encourages citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can
4 take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and
5 conserve energy; and

6 WHEREAS, The state has long been a national and international
7 leader on energy conservation and environmental stewardship
8 efforts, including the areas of air quality protections, energy
9 efficiency requirements, renewable energy standards, natural
10 resource conservation, and greenhouse gas emission standards;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Earth Hour is an opportunity for state agencies and
13 community energy awareness programs to promote information
14 and tools available to residents and businesses to increase energy
15 efficiency and decrease emissions and use of natural resources;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Extinguishing nonessential lights in all state
18 buildings and public landmarks for one hour and urging all
19 businesses and citizens to do the same demonstrates that the state
20 is concerned about climate change, that it stands with the rest of
21 the world in seeking solutions, and that it demands all elected
22 leaders act immediately to take measures that will help fight global
23 climate change, including enacting environmentally important
24 legislation and participating in good-faith in global climate treaty
25 negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009; and

26 WHEREAS, Turning off all nonessential lights in government
27 buildings and public landmarks will serve as an important rallying
28 point for the worldwide energy conservation event, Earth Hour;
29 now, therefore be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the state endorses efforts by the World
32 Wildlife Fund, through Earth Hour, to raise awareness of global
33 climate change and energy efficiency; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all city, county, and
35 state employees, as well as businesses to turn off all nonessential
36 lighting in government buildings, public schools, and public
37 landmarks, and inside business establishments for the hour between
38 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. on March 28, 2009, to conserve energy and
39 raise awareness about global climate change as part of the
40 international event, Earth Hour; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares the last Saturday in
2 March, from 8:30 to 9:30p.m. to be “Earth Hour” throughout the
3 state; and be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the office of the Governor, the California
6 Environmental Protection Agency, and the mayors of the following
7 cities: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Jose, San
8 Diego, Oakland, Bakersfield, and Fresno.

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