

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 6

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

[Filed with Secretary of State March 25, 2009.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 15, 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.

WHEREAS, Communities throughout California are affected by the impacts of global warming and are gravely concerned about the future health of our planet; and

WHEREAS, There is growing public support for action to stop global warming, and communicating a desire for change is an important part of democracy; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour is both an international and local symbolic event organized by the World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change issues, to encourage businesses, individuals, and governments to take actions to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on the environment in their daily lives and operations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and noncommercial establishments to voluntarily turn off all nonessential lighting for one hour beginning at 8:30 p.m. on March 28, 2009, and encourages citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and conserve energy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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