

## **Proposed Resolution in Favor of Reinstating the Manufacture, Sale, and Use of the Incandescent Light Bulb**

In December 2007, congress passed and President George Bush signed into law the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which requires all general-purpose light bulbs producing 310-2600 lumens of light (40 to 100 watt bulbs) to be 30% more energy efficient than current incandescent bulbs by 2012 (100 watt bulbs) to 2014 (40 watt bulbs). Under this legislation, by 2020, a second tier of restrictions would go into effect, requiring all general-purpose bulbs to produce at least 45 lumens per watt (70% more effective than today). Flood, 3-way, candelabra, colored, and other specialty bulbs would be exempt from the Act.

As a direct result of this legislation, in September 2010, the last major U.S. manufacturing plant for incandescent light bulbs closed in Winchester, VA (GE), and 200 jobs were lost.

Whereas the primary replacement bulb, the compact fluorescent light (CFL), has been found to be more expensive, contains mercury which can be harmful even in the smallest amounts, is mostly manufactured overseas in places like China, emits a flickering light which in severe cases can cause headaches, and as reported recently in the WSJ, the promised longevity is exaggerated by almost 33%, and

Whereas this de facto ban has nothing to do with public safety because unlike lead paint, leaded gasoline and asbestos, the old-fashioned bulbs in your home pose no danger, and are safe, cheap, and reliable, and

Whereas Senator Enzi (R-Wyo) has introduced the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act (BULBS), S. 395 which has 27 co-sponsors, including Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo), and Senator Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), and

Whereas Representative Joe Barton (R-Texas) along with Reps. Michael Burgess (R-Texas), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and 12 other Republicans introduced a similar bill in the House (H.R. 91), and

Whereas we agree with Senator DeMint that, "Washington needs to stop picking winners and losers in the marketplace and micromanaging how Americans live their lives. Americans are fully capable of choosing the best way to light their own homes and what best fits the needs and budget of their families. When Congress dictates which light bulbs folks in the U.S. must buy, it's clear the 'nanny state' mentality has gotten out of control in Washington"

Therefore the State Executive Committee of the Tennessee Republican Party supports the legislation proposed by the U.S. House and Senate and urges members of the 107<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Legislature to offer and support legislation exempting Tennessee from the requirements of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 under pending Nullification legislation (e.g., SB620/HB1212 (Campfield/Ragan and SB1474/HB1705 (Campfield/Hill) in the 107<sup>th</sup> session.