**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DENOUNCE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH AUTHORITARIAN DICTATORSHIPS THROUGH THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas, on March 7, 2022, the United States announced a ban on Russian oil, petroleum, natural gas, and coal imports to the United States in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine; and

Whereas, American officials are reportedly considering negotiations with Venezuela, a Russian ally whose oil industry is under American sanctions, that would allow oil back onto global markets; and

Whereas, in light of the fact that President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela is an authoritarian ruler whose legacy has contributed to a humanitarian crisis in Latin America, the United States should not strengthen ties with Venezuela by importing the country’s petroleum and natural gas; and

Whereas, instead of turning to foreign imports for petroleum and natural gas, the United States should invest in domestic production of oil, petroleum, and natural gas. By removing restrictions from its energy industries, the United States can assert energy independence. Now therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, denounce international relations with authoritarian dictatorships through the importation of foreign petroleum and natural gas, and encourage the domestic production of petroleum and natural gas in the United States.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the members of the South Carolina congressional delegation.

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