

1 *House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 97
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Ramsey Porter*

3
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE FEDERAL
 6 POWER COMMISSION TO WITHDRAW ITS LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF
 7 NEW NATURAL GAS CONNECTIONS WHICH CAN BE MADE IN 1977 BY
 8 MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES.

9
 10 WHEREAS, the Federal Power Commission, in approving a
 11 curtailment of natural gas delivery to industrial users by
 12 Montana-Dakota Utilities, has limited to 800 the total
 13 number of new natural gas customers the Montana-Dakota
 14 Utilities can connect in 1977, as compared with 1600 new
 15 connections made in 1976 when there were no restrictions;
 16 and

17 WHEREAS, the cost of heating with natural gas is and
 18 will remain for several years much lower than the cost of
 19 heating with electricity, the primary alternative; and

20 WHEREAS, all available natural gas connection permits
 21 for 1977 in the Billings area have already been issued; and

22 WHEREAS, the restriction on new connections will
 23 primarily serve to restrict residential and small business
 24 construction, thereby restricting growth and adversely
 25 affecting the entire economy within the four-state area

1 served by Montana-Dakota Utilities.
 2
 3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 4 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5 That the Federal Power Commission is requested to
 6 reconsider and withdraw its limitation on the number of new
 7 natural gas connections which can be made in 1977 by
 8 Montana-Dakota Utilities.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution
 10 be sent by the Secretary of State to the Chairman of the
 11 Federal Power Commission, to each member of Montana's
 12 Congressional Delegation, to the Governor, and to the
 13 Montana Energy Advisory Council.

-End-

Approved by Committee
on Natural Resources

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 9
 10 WHEREAS, the Federal Power Commission, in approving a
 11 curtailment of natural gas delivery to industrial users by
 12 Montana-Dakota Utilities, has limited to ~~800~~ 1220 the total
 13 number of new natural gas customers the Montana-Dakota
 14 Utilities can connect IN MONTANA in 1977, as compared with
 15 ~~1600~~ AN AVERAGE OF 1655 new connections made EACH YEAR in
 16 ~~1976~~ 1973 TO 1975 when there were no restrictions; and
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 3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 4 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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REFERENCE BILL