

By: Senator(s) King, Hewes, Robertson,
Moffatt, Posey, Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 562

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MISSISSIPPI POWER COMPANY
2 FOR PERFORMING EXEMPLARY SERVICE ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST
3 DURING THE HURRICANE KATRINA CRISIS.

4 WHEREAS, on Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a
5 Category Four Hurricane, crashed with unrelenting and violent
6 force onto the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast, making landfall at
7 or around Waveland, Mississippi. In one day, the worst natural
8 disaster in our history struck us a grievous blow, leaving a
9 90-mile swath of destruction along the coast and causing severe
10 damage throughout central and north Mississippi; and

11 WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina, 100% of Mississippi Power
12 Company's customers were left with no service; and

13 WHEREAS, Mississippi Power Company had 65% of its
14 transmission and distribution facilities damaged with 23,500 spans
15 of downed wire, 300 downed transmission structures, 9,000 downed
16 distribution poles and 2,300 damaged transformers. The first day
17 after Hurricane Katrina, all of Mississippi Power's substations
18 and its two major power plants were out of service, and only 3% of
19 3,000 MW of generation were available; and

20 WHEREAS, Mississippi Power Company's, led by President and
21 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Anthony J. Topazi, faced the
22 daunting task of restoring electricity to its 195,000 customers in
23 23 counties in Southeast Mississippi; and

24 WHEREAS, in addition to the company's damaged infrastructure,
25 Mississippi Power also had over 700 of its employees who suffered
26 personal losses; and

27 WHEREAS, Mississippi Power demonstrated untiring commitment,
28 diligence and service to its customer base, as well as the state
29 as a whole, by restoring power in an efficient and prompt manner
30 after Hurricane Katrina; and

31 WHEREAS, despite all of the overwhelming challenges
32 Mississippi Power faced, it took only 12 days after Hurricane
33 Katrina hit the coast, for Mississippi Power Company to have 100%
34 of its customer base, who could receive power, back on line; and

35 WHEREAS, the incredible feat of restoring power to Southeast
36 Mississippi could not have occurred without the dedicated
37 Mississippi Power Company employees, along with nearly 11,000
38 outside personnel from our sister states who helped Mississippi
39 Power restore power in such an efficient and prompt manner; and

40 WHEREAS, the reliability of this dedicated corporate citizen
41 is reflected by Mississippi Power Company's goal to do whatever it
42 took to restore service for customers and take care of employees
43 affected by Hurricane Katrina and those working to restore power:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
45 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
46 we do hereby commend the executives and employees of Mississippi
47 Power Company for their exemplary service, conduct and performance
48 rendered prior to and subsequent to Hurricane Katrina's
49 unprecedented destruction on and near the Mississippi Gulf Coast
50 in August and September, 2005, and we offer our thanks to these
51 individuals for their assistance in providing power during this
52 critical time, as we endeavor to rebuild our state and restore its
53 economy.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 CEO Anthony J. Topazi and be made available to the Capitol Press
56 Corps.