

HM 1251

2015

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to pass legislation and direct the
4 Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland
5 Security to request needed resources to protect
6 against and recover from the impacts of serious
7 electromagnetic pulse threats, cyber-attacks, and
8 geomagnetic storms in the United States.
9

10 WHEREAS, in November 2014, National Security Agency
11 Director and United States Cyber Command Commander, Admiral
12 Michael S. Rogers, testified before Congress that China and
13 other nations could black out the national power grid for 18
14 months, with catastrophic consequences for society and the
15 survival of the American people, and that the United States must
16 be prepared to protect its electric grid and be resilient to
17 electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attacks, and

18 WHEREAS, the congressionally mandated Commission to Assess
19 the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)
20 Attack found, in its July 2004 report, that an enemy using a
21 low-yield nuclear weapon detonated at a high altitude above the
22 United States could produce an electromagnetic pulse attack
23 against the United States, which could place our society at risk
24 and defeat our military forces, and

25 WHEREAS, Congress has commissioned other numerous hearings
26 and reports on this issue, including the House National Security

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27 | Committee hearing on the EMP Threat, 1997; the House Military
28 | Research and Development Subcommittee hearing on the threat to
29 | the United States of potential EMP attacks, 1999; the creation
30 | of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from
31 | Electromagnetic Pulse Attack, 2001; the congressional commission
32 | report, "Critical National Infrastructures," 2008; the creation
33 | of the Naval Sea Systems Command EMP Program, 2010; the North
34 | American Electric Reliability Corporation/United States
35 | Department of Energy report, "High-Impact, Low-Frequency Event
36 | Risk to the North American Bulk Power System," 2010; and the
37 | United States Department of Homeland Security testimony to the
38 | House Committee on Homeland Security, "The Electromagnetic Pulse
39 | (EMP) Threat: Examining the Consequences," 2012, and

40 | WHEREAS, in July 2014, Russia reportedly inserted a cyber-
41 | virus called Dragonfly into 1,000 power plants in Western Europe
42 | and the United States, possibly to cause a future blackout, the
43 | worst effects of which could be mitigated or prevented by EMP
44 | protection, and

45 | WHEREAS, in April 2013, North Korea threatened a nuclear
46 | strike on the United States and apparently practiced EMP attacks
47 | with a satellite that overflowed Florida and the eastern seaboard
48 | and with a North Korean freighter carrying nuclear-capable
49 | missiles that transited the Gulf of Mexico, and

50 | WHEREAS, in April 2013, an electrical substation in San
51 | Jose, California, was attacked with gunfire, leaving
52 | transformers disabled for nearly four weeks in an apparent

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53 attempt to disrupt power to Silicon Valley, raising questions
54 about the vulnerability of power grids across the United States
55 to sabotage, cyber-attacks, and EMP attacks, all of which could
56 be mitigated by EMP protection, and

57 WHEREAS, in June 2014, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
58 blacked out the nation of Yemen, terrorizing 16 cities and 24
59 million people, which acts of sabotage, if attempted in the
60 United States, could be mitigated by preparation for an EMP
61 attack, and

62 WHEREAS, in October 2013, the Knights Templar drug cartel
63 blacked out Mexico's Michoacán state, terrorizing 420,000 people
64 and executing leaders opposed to the drug trade, and

65 WHEREAS, geomagnetic storms are natural phenomena involving
66 disturbances in the earth's geomagnetic field caused by solar
67 activity, and disruptions of electrical power caused by
68 geomagnetic storms, such as the collapse of Hydro-Québec's
69 transmission grid during the geomagnetic storm of 1989, the
70 Carrington Event of 1859, and the Railroad Storm of 1921, have
71 occurred many times and will be even more devastating the more
72 we rely on technology in our everyday lives, and

73 WHEREAS, in July 2014, the National Aeronautics and Space
74 Administration reported that, in 2012, the Earth was narrowly
75 missed by a solar flare that would have caused a geomagnetic
76 super-storm and natural EMP event with catastrophic consequences
77 for electric grids and life-sustaining critical infrastructures

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78 worldwide, and that the probability of such a catastrophic
79 natural EMP event is 12 percent each decade, and

80 WHEREAS, in September 2014, two strong and unusual solar
81 storms were widely reported to have caused some disruption, but,
82 whether by luck or by chance, the flares did not directly hit
83 the earth, which would have led to the destruction of lives and
84 property, and

85 WHEREAS, Governor Rick Scott was apprised of the threats
86 posed by electromagnetic pulses, cyber-attacks, and geomagnetic
87 storms in a letter dated June 3, 2014, signed by experts
88 including, but not limited to, Dr. William R. Graham, former
89 Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
90 Administration and Chairman of the Congressional Commission to
91 Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic
92 Pulse Attack; R. James Woolsey, Jr., former Director of the
93 Central Intelligence Agency and Under Secretary of the Navy;
94 Ambassador Henry F. Cooper, former Director of the Strategic
95 Defense Initiative Organization; and Vice Admiral Robert R.
96 Monroe, former Director of the Defense Nuclear Agency and
97 Director of Navy Systems Analysis, and he was informed that such
98 threats are critical and an attack or event of this nature would
99 shake the foundation of both the nation and the State of
100 Florida, so it is imperative that the state and federal
101 governments work together to protect this country from such
102 threats, NOW, THEREFORE,

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104 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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106 That the United States Congress is urged to pass the
107 Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act
108 of 2015 and the House Resolution to amend the Homeland Security
109 Act of 2002, which will secure critical infrastructure against
110 electromagnetic pulse threats and protect the national electric
111 grid, and to direct the Secretary of the United States
112 Department of Homeland Security to request needed resources to:

113 (1) Protect against and recover from the impacts of
114 serious electromagnetic pulse threats, cyber-attacks, and
115 geomagnetic storms in the United States.

116 (2) Assure Congress and the American people that plans,
117 resources, and implementing structures are in place to
118 accomplish these objectives, specifically regarding
119 electromagnetic pulse threats, cyber-attacks, and geomagnetic
120 storms.

121 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
122 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
123 Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security,
124 to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of
125 the United States House of Representatives, and to each member
126 of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.