

By Mr. Brett of Boston, petition of James T. Brett for legislation to limit the importation into the Commonwealth of electricity generated outside the United States. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five.

AN ACT TO PREVENT THE ELIMINATION AND FOSTER THE CREATION OF JOBS IN THE UTILITY INDUSTRY BY LIMITING THE IMPORTATION INTO THE COMMONWEALTH OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds and declares that (a) it is the
2 responsibility of state government to insure that the jobs of its
3 citizens are not eliminated in any industry due to the importation
4 of goods or services produced or generated outside the United
5 States;

6 (b) due to the increased importation of electricity generated in
7 Canada by utility companies operating in and regulated by the
8 state the utility industry has foregone the construction of new
9 power plants and the creation of at least 6,000 additional jobs in the
10 utility industry as well as thousands of jobs in the construction
11 industry;

12 (c) the original treaties between the United States and Canada
13 calling for an equal exchange of electricity have been replaced by
14 agreements permitting United States companies to import increas-
15 ing quantities of electricity pursuant to long term contracts;

16 (d) in response the several Canadian Provinces have embarked
17 on massive hydro-electric, fossil fuel and nuclear generating proj-
18 ects, subsidized by these foreign governments, in order to attract an
19 ever greater share of the United States market;

20 (e) electricity is a manufactured product whose manufacture

21 outside of the United States under unfair competitive conditions
22 and subsequent importation into the state produces the same
23 uncontrolled job destruction as the importation of any other
24 product;

25 (f) the increased importation of foreign generated electricity will
26 destroy stable and reliable sources of personal income and tax
27 revenues within this state.

1 SECTION 2. It is the policy and intent of this legislature

2 (a) to protect the vitality of the states utility industry and to
3 foster the creation of jobs within that industry;

4 (b) to prevent the state from becoming dependent upon electric-
5 ity generated outside of the United States.

1 SECTION 3. It is hereby forebidden for any electric utility
2 company licensed and regulated by the state to bring into the state
3 for resale electricity generated outside of the United States in
4 amounts greater than those allowed by treaties in existence
5 between the United States and Canada in effect on December 1,
6 1982 or the average daily amount of such electricity sold within the
7 state for one year prior to December 1, 1982, whichever is less.

1 SECTION 4. The Department of Public Utilities is hereby
2 instructed to provide electric utility companies within its jurisdic-
3 tion with such regulatory relief as will enable the said utility com-
4 panies to produce a sufficient supply of electricity within the state
5 to meet the needs of consumers thereby eliminating the economic
6 necessity of importing electricity.