

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 260 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY BUNT, DALEY, HERSHEY, COY, DeWEESE, BAKER,
BALDWIN, BEBKO-JONES, FICHTER, FORCIER, GORDNER, GRUCELA,
HARHAI, HARRIS, HERMAN, HORSEY, LAUGHLIN, LEH, LEWIS,
MAITLAND, McILHATTAN, NAILOR, PAYNE, PICKETT, READSHAW,
RUBLEY, SATHER, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, WATSON,
TIGUE, GILLESPIE, YOUNGBLOOD, WALKO, CAPPELLI, GEIST, HESS,
WATERS, PRESTON, ROBERTS, E. Z. TAYLOR AND CREIGHTON,
APRIL 30, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 30, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program
2 rules not impede access to the program by agricultural
3 producers in Pennsylvania and other northeastern states.

4 WHEREAS, Production of agriculture is a unique and
5 diversified industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and all
6 of the northeastern United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The agricultural industry continues to be the
8 largest industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
9 contributes significantly to the economy and employment
10 opportunities in the northeastern United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Food security is a concern in the northeastern
12 United States for more than 58 million consumers - many living
13 in urban areas - in these times of international unrest; and

14 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of national security to
15 assure that regional agriculture be viable to provide a safe,

1 secure food supply to United States consumers; and

2 Whereas, The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
3 (2002 Farm Bill) and especially the Environmental Quality
4 Incentives Program (EQIP) have provided a very positive step
5 toward equity in funding of Federal support for agriculture in
6 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the northeastern states and
7 other regions of the United States; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully request that the rules
10 to be promulgated to implement the 2002 Farm Bill:

11 (1) Recognize the importance of EQIP to agricultural
12 producers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the
13 northeastern United States.

14 (2) Ensure that EQIP rules do not contain provisions
15 that will impede access to the program by agricultural
16 producers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the
17 northeastern United States.

18 (3) Retain the concept of locally led conservation by
19 making a commitment to producer-driven decision making in
20 order to increase local efficiencies and the opportunity to
21 partner with other entities to optimize the use of funds.

22 (4) Ensure that EQIP programs accommodate the
23 development and implementation of a variety of practices,
24 including irrigation practices for new and existing
25 irrigators, that reflect the diversity of agriculture in the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the northeastern United
27 States.

28 (5) Recognize that cost-share rates of less than 75%
29 will make the goal of agricultural production and
30 environmental quality compatibility difficult to achieve;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the members of the
4 Pennsylvania congressional delegation and the Northeast States
5 Association for Agricultural Stewardship of the Council of State
6 Governments.