
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 865 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY MUNDY, BRENNAN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, BAKER,
DIGIROLAMO, GEORGE, GODSHALL, HARHAI, JAMES, KIRKLAND, KORTZ,
MILLARD, NEILSON, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PRESTON, READSHAW,
SCHMOTZER, STABACK AND VITALI, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Irwin "Sonny" Popowsky for his 33 years of service in
2 the Office of Consumer Advocate.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky joined Pennsylvania's Office of
4 Consumer Advocate in 1979 as an assistant consumer advocate; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Popowsky was appointed Pennsylvania's
6 Consumer Advocate; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky was President of the National
8 Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates from 1996 to
9 1998; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky has served on numerous national and
11 State boards, such as the Board of Trustees of the North
12 American Electric Reliability Council, the Board of Directors of
13 the North American Energy Standards Board and the Keystone
14 Energy Board; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2010, Mr. Popowsky was appointed by Department of
16 Energy Secretary Steven Chu to the Department of Energy

1 Electricity Advisory Committee; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky was selected to serve on the
3 Stakeholder Steering Committee of the Department of Energy-
4 sponsored Eastern Interconnection Planning Collaborative; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1988, Mr. Popowsky briefed and argued the
6 landmark United States Supreme Court case of Duquesne Light
7 Company v. Barasch, in which the court upheld the position of
8 the Office of Consumer Advocate that two Pennsylvania utilities
9 had no constitutional right to charge consumers for the costs of
10 four cancelled nuclear power plants; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky has a nationally recognized unique
12 understanding of public utility regulation, from the larger
13 picture to how the smallest issues can affect overall utility
14 regulation; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky has always considered his service to
16 Pennsylvania utility consumers as an honor and a privilege; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky possesses an uncanny ability to explain
18 the complexities of utility regulation for all utility consumers
19 to understand; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky has zealously and passionately
21 advocated for the rights and protections of utility consumers,
22 while always treating opposing opinions with respect and
23 adhering to the rules of civility; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky's diplomacy in the regulatory community
25 is unmatched; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky has always promoted a family atmosphere
27 within the Office of Consumer Advocate and encouraged the
28 thoughtful exchange of ideas; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky's kind and caring leadership and
30 tireless pursuit of the common good have inspired a new

1 generation of young attorneys to specialize in the practice of
2 public utility law; and

3 WHEREAS, This inspiration to other attorneys is no small feat
4 considering that certain utility law reading material could cure
5 the most insufferable case of insomnia; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Popowsky's presence and inspiration will be
7 deeply missed by colleagues, policymakers and the public at
8 large; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Irwin
10 "Sonny" Popowsky for his 33 years of service in the Office of
11 Consumer Advocate.