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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 31

Session of  
1983

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INTRODUCED BY LLOYD, STEIGHNER, KUKOVICH, KLINGAMAN, BELFANTI,  
FARGO, SHOWERS, CAWLEY, PRATT, DeLUCA, SERAFINI, DeWEESE,  
MORRIS, HERMAN, ALDERETTE, SWEET, MICHLOVIC, JAROLIN,  
KOSINSKI, WARGO, DALEY, WOZNIAK AND KASUNIC, MARCH 1, 1983

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS,  
MARCH 14, 1983

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### A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing Congress to accelerate the release of money in the  
2 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

3 WHEREAS, Public Law 95-87, the Federal Surface Mining Control  
4 and Reclamation Act of 1977, imposed a reclamation fee of 35¢  
5 per ton of coal produced by surface coal mining and a  
6 reclamation fee of 15¢ per ton of coal produced by underground  
7 mining; and

8 WHEREAS, The revenue from these reclamation fees has been  
9 deposited in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to be used to  
10 carry out the reclamation of lands and waters which were mined  
11 for coal or were affected by coal mining, which were abandoned  
12 or left in an inadequate reclamation status prior to August 3,  
13 1977 and for which there is no continuing reclamation  
14 responsibility under State or other Federal Laws; and

15 WHEREAS, Each state is entitled to receive for reclamation  
16 projects a sum equal to 50% of the amount paid into the

1 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund on account of coal mined in that  
2 state; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of the Interior is  
4 authorized to utilize the remainder of the Abandoned Mine  
5 Reclamation Fund for reclamation projects in any state and, to  
6 assist in carrying out those projects, is authorized to allocate  
7 up to 20% of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to the United  
8 States Secretary of Agriculture for a rural abandoned mine  
9 program; and

10 WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Interior has been releasing  
11 funds to the states and allocating funds for a rural abandoned  
12 mine program at a slower rate than permitted by the Surface  
13 Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977; and

14 WHEREAS, The drop in steel production and in the anticipated  
15 usage of electricity has significantly reduced the demand for  
16 coal, thereby causing high unemployment in the coal industry and  
17 in communities dependent upon the coal industry; and

18 WHEREAS, Mine reclamation projects not only correct  
19 environmental problems but also help fight the recession by  
20 enabling at least some coal operators to use their otherwise  
21 idle equipment and workers to carry out those projects and by  
22 creating a demand for the materials used in reclamation; and

23 WHEREAS, The Reagan Administration and Congressional leaders  
24 are considering an accelerated public works jobs program;  
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
27 memorialize the President of the United States and the Congress  
28 to release the money in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund at a  
29 substantially accelerated rate for reclamation programs by  
30 states experiencing high unemployment in the coal industry and

1 for a rural abandoned mine reclamation program in rural areas  
2 experiencing high unemployment in the coal industry; and be it  
3 further

4       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
5 the President of the United States, the Secretary of the  
6 Interior, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and  
7 to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.