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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 117

Session of  
1983

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INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, J. L. WRIGHT, BELFANTI, TELEK AND  
McCALL, JULY 5, 1983

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, JULY 5, 1983

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President to create an Office of Special Assistant to  
2 the President for Coal.

3 WHEREAS, At this time of national concern over the present  
4 and future energy source supplies, the development of America's  
5 coal resources is of utmost importance to the country and the  
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to achieve energy  
7 independence and economic well-being; and

8 WHEREAS, Coal is one of this country's and this  
9 Commonwealth's most abundant yet underdeveloped natural  
10 resource, the Commonwealth containing virtually all of the  
11 Nation's supply of anthracite coal; and

12 WHEREAS, The demand for United States coal is expected to  
13 rise rapidly, with estimates by the National Coal Association  
14 that the foreign demand for United States coal will double by  
15 1990; and

16 WHEREAS, The domestic demand for coal will continue to grow  
17 as the price of alternative fuels continues to rise as evidenced

1 by the shortfall of anthracite coal in the northeastern states  
2 of the country during the winter of 1980-1981 and by the recent  
3 increases in the price of natural gas; and

4 WHEREAS, The recent decline in the world price of crude oil  
5 may lead to the erroneous perception that the development of the  
6 Nation's coal resources is no longer necessary; and

7 WHEREAS, The development of the coal resources of this  
8 country and this Commonwealth are constrained by:

9 (1) confusing regulation of coal mining and land  
10 reclamation;

11 (2) inconsistent industry regulation among the various  
12 states and between the states and the Federal Government;

13 (3) sometimes unrealistic, erratic and unequally applied  
14 clean air standards; and

15 (4) an inadequate and deteriorating regional and  
16 national coal transportation system; and

17 WHEREAS, The coal industry is currently affected by numerous  
18 regulatory and policymaking bodies including the National  
19 Security Council, the Federal Rail Administration, the Federal  
20 Highway Administration, the Maritime Administration, the Army  
21 Corps of Engineers, the Economic Regulatory Administration, the  
22 Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Bureau of Mines, the  
23 Office of Surface Mining, the Environmental Protection Agency,  
24 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Departments  
25 of Commerce and Energy and in most cases, individual states have  
26 counterpart agencies also impacting on the coal industry;  
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
29 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania finds that the immediate and  
30 speedy development of our abundant coal resources is vital to

1 the economic and energy security of this country and this  
2 Commonwealth, and that such development cannot be accomplished  
3 without the coordination of the regulatory and policymaking  
4 functions of the many agencies interfaced with the coal  
5 industry; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly feels that the importance  
7 of the development of the coal industry in the country and the  
8 Commonwealth should be a matter of national concern and  
9 awareness and should be given high priority as part of the  
10 country's response to the energy resource problems and, the  
11 General Assembly concurs with the position of Pennsylvania's  
12 United States Senator H. John Heinz, Chairman of the Senate Coal  
13 Caucus, that coordination of governmental efforts to resolve the  
14 problems of coal industry can only be accomplished through the  
15 Office of the President which is the only office with the  
16 necessary breadth and jurisdiction to effectively assist this  
17 vital energy industry; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge the President of the  
19 United States to create, within the White House, the Office of  
20 Special Assistant to the President for Coal; and be it further

21       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
22 the President of the United States, each member of the Senate  
23 and House of Representatives in Congress from the Commonwealth  
24 and the members of the Coal Caucus of the United States Senate  
25 and the United States House of Representatives.