A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of September 2018 as "#UTILITYCAREERS Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Utility providers in this Commonwealth bring vital services to our homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Utility employment represents tens of thousands of community-oriented jobs with good wages, career growth and training opportunities and the satisfaction of knowing that you are serving your neighbors; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong need for additional skilled utility workers across our nation and in this Commonwealth due to a combination of factors, including an aging current workforce and the growth of new systems and technologies; and

WHEREAS, Utility employment in this Commonwealth is growing faster and wages are substantially higher than other employment sectors; and

WHEREAS, The average wage for a utility worker in this
Commonwealth is just over $93,000 per year, which is nearly
twice the average wage for other employment sectors; and

WHEREAS, The number of utility jobs has increased by more
than 11% over the past five years in this Commonwealth, which is
five times the job growth compared to other employment sectors;
and

WHEREAS, There is a nationwide and Statewide need for all of
the following skilled utility personnel:
  (1) engineers;
  (2) field operators who maintain existing systems and
      build-out new systems;
  (3) plant operators who keep the energy and water
      flowing to our communities; and
  (4) various technical experts, including cybersecurity
      experts;

and

WHEREAS, Nationally, utility providers are expected to hire
an additional 70,000 workers by 2020 and growth in the energy
sector alone is expected to create an estimated 1.5 million jobs
by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Utility providers keep the residents of this
Commonwealth safe and healthy and it is important to ensure that
utility providers have the skilled personnel they need to meet
the needs of today and tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, It is essential for utility providers, State
agencies, educational institutions and other concerned parties
to work collaboratively to develop a skilled and diverse
workforce to support these essential services; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
month of September 2018 as "UTILITYCAREERS Month" in
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Pennsylvania in recognition of the effort to increase access to information about utility career opportunities and encourage efforts to highlight the importance of educating the next generation of utility workers.