

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 352      Session of  
2000

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INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, ROONEY, BELARDI, LESCOVITZ, DeWEESE,  
SURRA, MUNDY, COY, GRUCELA, CASORIO, McCALL, YUDICHAK, CURRY,  
MANN, CORRIGAN, LAUGHLIN, MELIO, STABACK, COLAFELLA,  
TRAVAGLIO, SAINATO, TRELLO, KAISER, MARKOSEK, WALKO, LEDERER,  
GRUITZA, VAN HORNE, SCRIMENTI, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO,  
MICHLOVIC, EACHUS, CLARK, HANNA AND BATTISTO,  
FEBRUARY 2, 2000

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Introduced, Feb. 2, 2000

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to call upon its  
2 investigative arm, the General Accounting Office, to conduct  
3 a comprehensive investigation of whether the recent  
4 substantial increases in fuel prices are the result of  
5 legitimate market fluctuations.

6 WHEREAS, The price of a barrel of oil is \$30, up from just  
7 \$11 per barrel in December 1998; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Consumer Price Index, gasoline  
9 prices rose by 76.4% in 1999 and by 8.5% in December 1999 alone;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Gasoline pump prices at \$1.29 per gallon are at  
12 their highest levels in ten years; and

13 WHEREAS, Based on information from the Energy Information  
14 Administration, diesel fuel prices in the central Atlantic  
15 region averaged more than \$1.38 per gallon the week of January  
16 17, 2000, and heating oil prices averaged more than \$1.10 per  
17 gallon in Pennsylvania for the week ending January 17, 2000; and

1       WHEREAS, These record increases in oil prices, in some cases  
2       surpassing those existing during the Persian Gulf War, will have  
3       a direct, serious and substantial impact on both the  
4       Pennsylvania and national economies; and

5       WHEREAS, These oil price hikes will result in potentially  
6       devastating economic consequences for innumerable people  
7       employed in the transportation industry in Pennsylvania,  
8       including, among others, truckers, service station owners,  
9       diesel truck stop and fleet center owners, heating oil retailers  
10      and the airlines; and

11      WHEREAS, As a result, hundreds of thousands of homeowners  
12      will see vast increases in their home heating costs; therefore  
13      be it

14      RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
15      Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the  
16      United States to call upon its investigative arm, the General  
17      Accounting Office, to conduct a comprehensive investigation of  
18      whether the recent substantial increases in fuel prices are the  
19      result of legitimate market fluctuations or, at least in part,  
20      the result of collusion or antitrust violations among and  
21      between oil companies; and be it further

22      RESOLVED, That the Department of Justice of the United States  
23      is urged to immediately commence a comprehensive investigation  
24      of whether the recent hike in fuel prices is the result of  
25      legitimate market fluctuations or illegal collaboration and  
26      anti-trust law violations occurring among and between oil  
27      companies; and be it further

28      RESOLVED, That there be an immediate increase in LIHEAP  
29      eligibility requirements from 110% of the poverty level to 135%  
30      of the poverty level and for the Commonwealth to provide for a

1 \$50 increase in crisis funding from \$250 to \$300 per household;  
2 and be it further

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