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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 382      Session of  
2005

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INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, DeWEESE, ARGALL, BASTIAN, BELARDI,  
BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CRAHALLA, EACHUS, GEORGE,  
GODSHALL, GRUCELA, JAMES, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LEVDANSKY,  
MANN, McILHATTAN, MUNDY, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROBERTS, RUBLEY,  
SOLOBAY, STABACK, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK,  
MYERS, REED AND HUTCHINSON, JUNE 29, 2005

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SENATOR M. WHITE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, IN SENATE,  
AS AMENDED, JANUARY 24, 2006

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1    Memorializing Congress to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine  
2        Reclamation Fund.

3        WHEREAS, Substantial coal mining has occurred in Pennsylvania  
4    for more than 130 years, and the industry has been a significant  
5    employer of our citizens for most of these years; and

6        WHEREAS, Abandoned mines pose hazards in Pennsylvania of  
7    dangerous shafts, mountains of black waste, scarred landscapes,  
8    acidic drainages polluting more than 3,000 miles of our streams  
9    and other hazards threatening human health and safety and  
10    depressing local economies; and

11       WHEREAS, At least 44 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are  
12    affected by abandoned coal mines; and

13       WHEREAS, Abandoned mines and abandoned mine lands create  
14    negative impacts on local economies by destroying recreational  
15    opportunities, lowering land values, leaving desolate

1 communities once the mines are exhausted and ruining sites for  
2 further residential, forestry, commercial or agricultural uses;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Reclamation of abandoned mine sites can add to the  
5 economy by creating jobs, increasing community pride, increasing  
6 property values, decreasing stress-related costs through stream-  
7 based recreation, restoring the health of the environment and  
8 providing future sites for commercial or industrial endeavors;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Congress established the Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
11 Fund under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and  
12 Reclamation Act of 1977 to reclaim areas abandoned before 1977  
13 and the modern environmental standards requiring mine operators  
14 to reclaim their sites; and

15 WHEREAS, The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of  
16 1977 imposed on coal operators a fee of 35¢ per ton on surface  
17 mined coal and 15¢ per ton on underground mined coal to provide  
18 a source of revenue for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to  
19 help finance the reclamation and remediation of lands mined  
20 prior to 1977; and

21 WHEREAS, The collection of fees on mined coal applied to the  
22 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund under Title IV of the Surface  
23 Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 was set to expire on  
24 June 30, 2005, but is currently under extension to ~~September 30,~~ <—  
25 ~~2005~~ JUNE 30, 2006; and <—

26 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has relied upon the Abandoned Mine  
27 Reclamation Fund as a primary source of money to clean up toxic  
28 mine water in our water supplies, restore land, extinguish mine  
29 fires and eliminate other dangerous abandoned mine hazards;  
30 therefore be it

1       RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of  
3 the United States to reauthorize the collection of fees on mined  
4 coal at the current levels to provide continued funding to the  
5 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to address abandoned mine  
6 hazards, pollution and scarred landscapes in Pennsylvania and  
7 other states.