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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 897 Session of  
2006

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INTRODUCED BY PETRONE, RAMALEY, BEBKO-JONES, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,  
COSTA, DALEY, DeLUCA, FLAHERTY, GERGELY, GRUCELA, JAMES,  
JOSEPHS, KOTIK, LEDERER, MELIO, MUSTIO, PALLONE, PISTELLA,  
PRESTON, READSHAW, SAINATO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, THOMAS, WALKO,  
WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 18, 2006

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 18, 2006

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an  
2 in-depth investigation into the landslide in Kilbuck  
3 Township, Allegheny County, including a thorough review of  
4 the applicable State and local permit and approval processes;  
5 and requiring a report.

6 WHEREAS, On September 19, 2006, a massive landslide occurred  
7 at the commercial construction project at the Kilbuck  
8 Properties, L.P. site in Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 500,000 and 600,000 cubic yards of earth and  
10 stone from the site cascaded down onto the four-lane  
11 Pennsylvania State Route 65, a vital roadway for 22,000 vehicles  
12 a day, and three Norfolk Southern Railways tracks, a major  
13 commercial rail link between Chicago and New York City, which  
14 carry close to 100 trains a day, forcing their closure; and

15 WHEREAS, The closure of these major transportation arteries  
16 completely disrupted the lives of thousands of people daily and  
17 negatively impacted the quality of life of the residents and the  
18 economy of Allegheny County and a large portion of southwestern

1 Pennsylvania, resulting in untold costs for cleanup, wages,  
2 damages and lost revenue; and

3 WHEREAS, Officials of the Allegheny County Office of Economic  
4 Development cautioned Kilbuck Township officials prior to the  
5 incident that the site, formerly the location of the Dixmont  
6 State Hospital, was well-known to be prone to landslides; and

7 WHEREAS, Local residents expressed numerous concerns about  
8 the safety and viability of the proposed construction project at  
9 that site; and

10 WHEREAS, Permits or approvals, or both, for the project were  
11 ultimately granted by the Department of Environmental  
12 Protection, the Department of Transportation and Kilbuck  
13 Township, and the project commenced; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
15 State Government Commission to conduct an in-depth investigation  
16 into the landslide in Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County,  
17 including a thorough review of the applicable State and local  
18 permit and approval processes; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
20 authorized to create a task force and an advisory committee to  
21 assist the task force in this undertaking; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That additional assistance in this endeavor be  
23 provided by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution  
24 Control and Conservation Committee; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the task force be authorized to hold public  
26 hearings, take testimony and conduct any site visits; and be it  
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission compile  
29 a report based on the findings and recommendations of the task  
30 force and submit the report to the House of Representatives as

- 1 soon as possible but no later than one year following the
- 2 adoption of this resolution.