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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 310 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY CASORIO, BELFANTI, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE, CREIGHTON,  
DALEY, FABRIZIO, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARKINS, HESS,  
M. KELLER, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, MOUL, MOYER, O'NEILL, PAYNE,  
RAYMOND, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROHRER, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY,  
WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, VULAKOVICH AND SURRA, JUNE 1, 2007

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, JUNE 1, 2007

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Senate to adopt and the President of  
2 the United States to sign the Safe American Roads Act of 2007  
3 (H.R. 1773).

4 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to  
5 ensure that every family traveling our highways is sharing the  
6 road with vehicles which meet the same rigorous safety standards  
7 established for United States cars and trucks so as not to  
8 recklessly endanger our citizens, especially our children; and

9 WHEREAS, The Bush Administration announced it is initiating a  
10 one-year experimental program which would allow 100 Mexican  
11 carriers to begin travel beyond the currently permitted  
12 commercial zones, a program which raises serious safety  
13 concerns; and

14 WHEREAS, This program could negatively impact homeland  
15 security because it is unclear if drivers will be checked  
16 against the terror watch list, if our borders will be open to

1 anyone with a Mexican driver's license, if drivers will be  
2 required to carry a Mexican passport just as United States  
3 citizens are required to present their passports when entering  
4 the country from Mexico or Canada or if all trucks will be  
5 inspected by United States officials in Mexico and at the United  
6 States border, as the United States Department of Transportation  
7 asserts, when less than 10% of all Mexican trucks entering the  
8 commercial zone are inspected now; and

9 WHEREAS, From the very beginning, concerns have been raised  
10 about the United States Department of Transportation and this  
11 experiment; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Transportation first  
13 denied the program's existence before its announcement in  
14 Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, When the program failed to meet the legal  
16 requirements for a pilot project, the United States Department  
17 of Transportation quickly reclassified it as a demonstration;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Allowing Mexican trucks onto United States highways  
20 violates a 2002 Federal law that, according to the House  
21 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, prohibited the  
22 United States Department of Transportation and, more  
23 specifically, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
24 from using funds to review or process applications of Mexican  
25 motor carriers seeking long-haul operating authority until 22  
26 preconditions and specific safety requirements were met; and

27 WHEREAS, The program calls into question the enforcement of  
28 many Federal laws and standards on topics such as wages and  
29 hours, commercial drivers' licenses, regular physicals, minimum  
30 age, drug and alcohol testing, false log books and fatigued

1 drivers; and

2 WHEREAS, In an effort to address these concerns, H.R. 1773  
3 (2007), entitled the Safe American Roads Act of 2007, was  
4 introduced to prohibit the United States Department of  
5 Transportation from granting authority to Mexican trucks to  
6 operate beyond the commercial zone, except under a pilot  
7 program, until the department complies with all 22 safety and  
8 security requirements outlined in section 350 of the act of  
9 December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-87, 113 Stat. 833); and

10 WHEREAS, H.R. 1773 (2007) was overwhelmingly approved by the  
11 full United States House of Representatives by a vote of 411-3  
12 on May 15, 2007; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Senate to  
15 adopt and the President of the United States to sign H.R. 1773  
16 (2007); and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
18 the President of the United States, presiding officers of the  
19 Senate and to each Senator from Pennsylvania.