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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 546 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, ARGALL, BELFANTI, BOBACK, BRENNAN,  
CONKLIN, DALEY, DePASQUALE, DeWEESE, FREEMAN, GEIST, GRUCELA,  
HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KULA,  
LEVDANSKY, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MUNDY, MYERS,  
M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PETRARCA, PETRONE,  
RAMALEY, READSHAW, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, SWANGER, THOMAS,  
WALKO, WANSACZ, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND  
YUDICHAK, DECEMBER 18, 2007

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
DECEMBER 18, 2007

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to exercise due  
2 diligence on behalf of the citizens of this Commonwealth and  
3 of this nation by implementing oversight, inquiry and  
4 investigation into gas and energy prices to ensure that these  
5 exceedingly high prices are both necessary and ethically  
6 ascertained.

7 WHEREAS, Coal, oil and natural gas currently provide more  
8 than 85% of all the energy consumed in the United States, which  
9 accounts for nearly two-thirds of our electricity consumption  
10 and virtually all of our transportation fuels; and

11 WHEREAS, Even with aggressive development and deployment of  
12 new renewable and nuclear technologies, it is likely that this  
13 nation's burgeoning and debilitating dependence on foreign oil  
14 will surely increase over at least the next two decades; and

15 WHEREAS, With continued strife in the Middle East and unrest  
16 in other oil-producing regions, the price and supply of gas and

1 energy have grown increasingly unstable in today's complex,  
2 globalized economy; and

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Energy forecasts a sharp and  
4 definite spike in gas and energy prices over the winter months,  
5 further crippling consumers of this nation, especially those  
6 living in the northeast; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 50% of this Commonwealth's citizens and  
8 58% of this nation's households utilize natural gas, forcing  
9 families with low income to spend 10% of their annual incomes on  
10 energy costs; and

11 WHEREAS, America's economic viability, national security and  
12 citizens' welfare depend on the continued availability of  
13 reliable and affordable fossil fuels; and

14 WHEREAS, The economic duress of this nation is further  
15 exacerbated by increasing energy prices, thus depressing  
16 consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic  
17 activity in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, The lack of oversight and inquiry by Congress into  
19 the energy policy of this nation resulted in the five largest  
20 United States refineries earning \$228 billion in profits from  
21 2001 to 2005; and

22 WHEREAS, These unscrupulous and inordinate profits were  
23 procured on the backs of hard-working Americans who struggle  
24 just to fill their gas tanks and heat their homes; therefore be  
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
28 States to exercise due diligence on behalf of the citizens of  
29 this Commonwealth and of this nation by implementing oversight,  
30 inquiry and investigation into gas and energy prices to ensure

- 1 that these exceedingly high prices are both necessary and
- 2 ethically ascertained.