

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 751 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, HICKERNELL, COHEN, BIZZARRO, MILLARD,  
BROWNLEE, MIRABITO, ENGLISH, KINSEY, HENNESSEY, DIGIROLAMO,  
PAYNE, TALLMAN, KIM, LUCAS, O'BRIEN, KIRKLAND, READSHAW,  
ROZZI, HARHART, MCGEEHAN, WATSON, GODSHALL, PASHINSKI,  
THOMAS, MCNEILL, CALTAGIRONE, HARKINS, YOUNGBLOOD AND KORTZ,  
MARCH 31, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 31, 2014

## A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering the accident that occurred on March 28, 1979, at the  
2 Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Londonderry  
3 Township, Dauphin County.

4 WHEREAS, In 1957, the United States commercial nuclear  
5 industry was born in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when a  
6 nuclear reactor went on line in Shippingport; and

7 WHEREAS, March 28, 2014, is the 35th anniversary of the 1979  
8 accident at the Three Mile Island Unit 2 (TMI-2) nuclear power  
9 plant in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County; and

10 WHEREAS, The accident at TMI-2 was caused by a combination of  
11 equipment failure and the inability of plant operators to fully  
12 understand the reactor's condition while a gradual loss of  
13 cooling water to the reactor's heat-producing core led to  
14 partial melting of the fuel rod cladding and the uranium fuel  
15 and the release of radioactive material; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 1,000 skilled and dedicated workers were

involved in the cleanup process which began in August 1979 and was completed in 1993 and which cost nearly \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, The TMI-2 accident caused no injuries or deaths; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the Department of Health discontinued the 30,000-person database of those living within five miles of TMI-2 after no evidence of abnormal cancer or disease was found; and

WHEREAS, As recently as 2002, a study by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health confirmed that no significant increase in overall deaths or cancer rates existed; and

WHEREAS, Lessons learned from the TMI-2 accident brought about sweeping changes involving emergency response planning, reactor operator training, human factors engineering, radiation protection and many other areas of nuclear power plant operations; and

WHEREAS, Today, TMI-2 remains in a safe, monitored, storage condition; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, the TMI-2 cleanup program was named by the National Society of Professional Engineers as one of the top engineering achievements in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Today, Three Mile Island Unit 1, which began operating in 1974, employs approximately 600 workers and safely produces about 900 million watts of electricity, enough for about 900,000 homes, and has set five separate world records for continuous days of operation; and

WHEREAS, There are nine operating nuclear power plants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Beaver Valley (two units), Limerick (two units), Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (two units), Susquehanna (two units) and Three Mile Island Unit 1 (one unit); and

1 WHEREAS, Thirty-one states have commercial nuclear power  
2 plants, but nearly one-third of this nation's total capacity is  
3 located in just four states, and the Commonwealth of  
4 Pennsylvania ranks second in total nuclear capacity and nuclear  
5 generation; and

6 WHEREAS, Since the TMI-2 accident, nuclear power has proven  
7 that it is a clean, safe, reliable and affordable source of  
8 emission-free generation that provides 36% of the electricity  
9 generated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania today; and

10 WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is the only large-scale, clean-air  
11 electricity source that can be expanded widely to produce large  
12 amounts of energy, and it makes up nearly 74% of the entire  
13 nation's clean-air electricity generation; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honor the emergency responders,  
16 local officials, police, firefighters, State employees and many  
17 other citizens who responded heroically to the accident in 1979,  
18 as well as the nearly 1,000 employees who worked diligently to  
19 clean up TMI-2 from 1979 to 1993; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the need  
21 for affordable, safe and reliable forms of electricity which  
22 promote the continued economic growth of Pennsylvania; and be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the  
25 continual development of clean and green energy and recognize  
26 the importance of green energy to the economy of Pennsylvania;  
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
29 importance of the continued safe operation of nuclear power  
30 generation resources in order to continue to provide

1 Pennsylvania with diverse and affordable sources of energy; and  
2 be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives appreciate the  
4 historic and important contribution that nuclear energy has made  
5 to the electric generation supply mix in Pennsylvania; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the  
8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy, the  
9 Governor, the Senate and the members of Pennsylvania  
10 Congressional Delegation.