
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 893 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY HACKETT, BARRAR, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
KIRKLAND, MATZIE, MILLARD, MURT, READSHAW, THOMAS, WATSON AND
VEREB, JUNE 10, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Transportation and the
2 National Transportation Safety Board to conduct a
3 comprehensive inspection of all railroads in this
4 Commonwealth to ensure that the railroads are capable of
5 withstanding the increased traffic that is occurring due to
6 the transportation of crude oil.

7 WHEREAS, In recent months, the shipping of crude oil by rail
8 from North Dakota to various locations throughout North America,
9 including this Commonwealth, has substantially increased; and

10 WHEREAS, Along with this increased rail traffic has come an
11 increase in accidents involving trains carrying the crude oil;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, During the past year, there have been accidents
14 involving trains carrying crude oil in this Commonwealth,
15 including a derailment in Philadelphia and an incident in the
16 Pittsburgh region that resulted in a spill, as well as a very
17 serious and violent derailment and explosion in Virginia; and

18 WHEREAS, At least one of the accidents was a result of
19 improper maintenance work; and

1 WHEREAS, Railroad companies have the duty to inspect their
2 own rails and usually do not have a third party verify the
3 results of their inspections; and

4 WHEREAS, The recent increase in accidents involving trains
5 carrying crude oil suggests that railroad companies are not
6 effectively executing their duty to inspect their own rails; and

7 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth will not stand by and wait for a
8 catastrophic event to occur in this Commonwealth before taking
9 action on this issue; and

10 WHEREAS, The Federal Government is responsible for overseeing
11 the railroads in this nation; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Department
14 of Transportation and the National Transportation Safety Board
15 to conduct a comprehensive inspection of all railroads in this
16 Commonwealth to ensure that the railroads are capable of
17 withstanding the increased traffic that is occurring due to the
18 transportation of crude oil; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
20 the United States Department of Transportation and the National
21 Transportation Safety Board.