

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 592 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, GROVE, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, MILLARD AND
WARD, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
NOVEMBER 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 545, the
2 United States Commission on the Organization of Petroleum
3 Exporting Countries Act, and requesting that President Donald
4 J. Trump sign H.R. 545 into law.

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has abundant
6 natural resources, including energy resources, and much of this
7 Commonwealth's economy, businesses and jobs are directly related
8 to these resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting
10 Countries (OPEC) has deliberately and routinely influenced the
11 price of oil by manipulating global supply, most recently seen
12 in 2014 when the price of oil fell as the cartel maintained high
13 production in response to growing United States shale
14 production; and

15 WHEREAS, Jobs in the Pennsylvania oil and gas sector fell
16 from 23,525 in 2014 to 13,925 in 2016, with more than 2,300 lost
17 in drilling and 6,200 lost in support services; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Industry rated oil and

1 gas extraction as a "hi-decline" industry, with employment
2 falling 16.1% from the third quarter of 2015 to the third
3 quarter of 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, Rig counts in Pennsylvania fell from 56 in 2014 to
5 20 in 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, Since January 2015, 268 oil and gas companies have
7 filed for bankruptcy in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is an energy-producing state, where
9 crude oil production in 2016 fell 2,000 barrels per day (bpd) to
10 17,000 bpd, the first year-over-year decline since 1999; and

11 WHEREAS, Russian government-owned Rosneft could own a
12 significant stake in United States energy resources and
13 infrastructure in the Western Hemisphere and undermine American
14 energy security and national security if Venezuela's Petr  leos
15 de Venezuela, S.A. fails to repay a \$1.5 billion loan, for which
16 a major stake in Citgo was used as collateral; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
19 States to pass H.R. 545, the United States Commission on the
20 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Act, and request
21 that President Donald J. Trump sign H.R. 545 into law; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That, if Congress does not pass H.R. 545, President
24 Trump take executive action to establish and appoint a one-year
25 commission of experts to investigate OPEC and make
26 recommendations to counter market manipulation and price
27 volatility caused by the cartel and State-owned oil companies,
28 and to help protect our nation's energy and national security;
29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to

1 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
2 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
3 Pennsylvania.