

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION**No. 787** Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY McCARTER, DEAN, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, NEILSON,
PASHINSKI, TOOHL, MILLARD, SIMS, BURNS, BOBACK, SCHLOSSBERG,
EVERETT, DiGIROLAMO, FRANKEL, MURT, DAVIS, BIZZARRO,
YOUNGBLOOD, BARRAR, CALTAGIRONE, MENTZER, STURLA AND MARSICO,
APRIL 3, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
APRIL 5, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 16 through 22, 2018, as "Clean
2 Streams Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, There are more than 62,000 streams in this
4 Commonwealth covering nearly 83,000 miles that provide drinking
5 water, recreational opportunities, natural beauty and habitat
6 for Pennsylvania's wildlife; and

7 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Clean Streams Law was passed by
8 the General Assembly in 1937 to preserve and improve the purity
9 of the waters of this Commonwealth for the protection of public
10 health, animal and aquatic life, industrial consumption and
11 recreation; and

12 WHEREAS, Streams and rivers are an important source of
13 drinking water for Pennsylvania residents, making clean streams
14 vital to this Commonwealth's water security; and

15 WHEREAS, Fishing in Pennsylvania's streams is a popular

1 pastime and is part of an outdoor recreation industry that
2 contributed more than \$20 billion in consumer spending to this
3 Commonwealth's economy in 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, Trout populations serve as an indicator of a
5 stream's overall health; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Trout
7 Unlimited are currently working together to classify all of
8 Pennsylvania's streams based on trout habitat; and

9 WHEREAS, The flora and fauna found in streams are the
10 foundation of a healthy ecosystem; and

11 WHEREAS, Excessive agricultural runoff of nutrient-rich soil
12 into streams can damage ecosystems and create "dead zones" from
13 algae blooms; and

14 WHEREAS, Agricultural runoff is a major contributor to the
15 degradation of the Chesapeake Bay; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has already spent billions of dollars
17 on Chesapeake Bay cleanup and is obligated to spend billions
18 more; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Environmental
20 Protection, nearly 20,000 miles of Pennsylvania's waterways are
21 considered impaired, mostly from agricultural runoff and acid
22 mine drainage; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the United States Geological Survey,
24 more than 3,000 miles of streams in this Commonwealth are
25 contaminated by acid mine drainage, with many of the impacted
26 streams containing no fish; and

27 WHEREAS, Storm water runoff is another major source of water
28 pollution in this Commonwealth; and

29 WHEREAS, During rainstorms, litter, motor oil, antifreeze and
30 other chemicals, including salt used to treat roadways in the

1 winter, washes off roads and into storm drains, eventually
2 polluting our streams and rivers; and

3 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States recently
4 overturned the United States Department of the Interior's Stream
5 Protection Rule, which regulated waterway contamination from
6 surface coal mining; and

7 WHEREAS, The Federal Government has sought to change the
8 definition of "waters of the United States" covered under the
9 Clean Water Act so that certain small streams, headwaters and
10 wetlands are no longer included; and

11 WHEREAS, The health of our waterways is crucial to the well-
12 being of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
14 week of April 16 through 22, 2018, as "Clean Streams Week" in
15 Pennsylvania.