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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 104 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BARTOLOTTA, YAW, WHITE, VULAKOVICH, STEFANO,  
HUTCHINSON, WAGNER, WARD, RESCHENTHALER, REGAN AND VOGEL,  
MAY 4, 2017

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY 4, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to end the moratorium on new nonsurface  
2 disturbance natural gas drilling leases involving  
3 Commonwealth State forest land.

4 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has previously recognized the  
5 safe and responsible expansion of regulated gas leasing and  
6 drilling on public lands in this Commonwealth, including the  
7 State forest system, as an appropriate method of energy  
8 production as well as an appropriate nontax source of revenue;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, With the Commonwealth facing a budget deficit  
11 exceeding \$1 billion, the Senate seeks to pursue every  
12 opportunity to create new revenue; and

13 WHEREAS, The potential revenue generated by reauthorizing the  
14 Commonwealth to enter into natural gas leases has previously  
15 been estimated to exceed \$100 million; and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
17 (DCNR) has administered State-regulated natural gas extraction  
18 for seven decades; and

1       WHEREAS, DCNR oversight of controlled mineral extraction in  
2 this Commonwealth has included monitoring, evaluating and  
3 reporting on the environmental impact that occurs before, during  
4 and after drilling; and

5       WHEREAS, DCNR has stated that:

6             Approximately 1.5 million acres of the 2.2 million-acre  
7 state forest land are underlain by Marcellus and other  
8 shale gas formations, making it a key venue for  
9 developing this important energy source in Pennsylvania;

10 and

11       WHEREAS, DCNR's authority to provide new nonsurface  
12 disturbance natural gas leases should be restored and fully  
13 utilized to realize much-needed State revenue before asking  
14 taxpayers to pay higher taxes; therefore be it

15       RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Governor to end the  
16 moratorium on new nonsurface disturbance natural gas drilling  
17 leases involving Commonwealth State forest land; and be it  
18 further

19       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
20 the Office of the Governor.