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**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 52

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, October 27, 2021

The Senate met at 12 m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the Chair.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend REUBEN HILLIARD, of Gateway Church International, York, offered the following prayer:

Dear loving, gracious, merciful, and Holy Father. We ask for Your presence to fill this building and for Your Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and direct all of our elected officials and their staff to accomplish Your will for Pennsylvania. We thank You for this Commonwealth and ask that You would continue to strengthen and to prosper her, and all the more in these uncertain times. We ask that You would bless the people of this great State with health, wholeness, and peace and that You would prosper every good work that we set our hands to. We bind all forces of evil and every wicked scheme that would come against the people. We call forth a hedge of protection around her and the people. We loose Your angelic hosts to protect, strengthen, and minister to the people here. We loose economic prosperity, creative ideas, and solutions to bless this State and her people. We loose unity, peace, joy, righteousness, justice, and love across this State. We ask for Your wisdom, strength, and courage for our State's leaders, their families, and their staff. We bless this State Senate, Holy Spirit, that You would lead, guide, and direct these men and women and prosper every good work according to Your plans and purposes, and Your riches and glory. We bless them from the top of their heads to the soles of their feet with peace, health, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. We bless all of their days to know You and Your guidance. We bless this State to see Your divine hand and prosperity. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Pastor Hilliard, who is the guest today of Senator Phillips-Hill.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

**APPOINTMENT BY THE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill as a member of the Judicial Computer Financial Audit Committee.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES**

Senator DiSANTO, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, reported the following bills:

**SB 676 (Pr. No. 1182) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in financial responsibility, further providing for definitions, for availability, scope and amount of coverage, for request for lower limits of coverage, for coverages in excess of required amounts, for stacking of uninsured and underinsured benefits and option to waive, for notice of available benefits and limits and for availability of uninsured, underinsured, bodily injury liability and property damage coverages and mandatory deductibles.

**HB 1588 (Pr. No. 2323) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 7 (Banks and Banking) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in mortgage loan industry licensing and consumer protection, further providing for definitions, for license requirements, for exceptions to license requirements, for general requirements, for powers conferred on certain licensees engaged in the mortgage loan business, for mortgage loan business prohibitions, for application for license, for prelicensing and continuing education, for license fees, for licensee requirements, for suspension, revocation or refusal and for mortgage servicers.

Senator YUDICHAK, from the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, reported the following bill:

**SB 881 (Pr. No. 1184) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Safe Exchange Zone Program.

Senator BROOKS, from the Committee on Health and Human Services, reported the following bills:

**SB 924 (Pr. No. 1177)**

An Act amending the act of October 20, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.96, No.6), known as the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in responsibilities of the State, providing for State center closure moratorium.

**HB 764 (Pr. No. 1634)**

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further providing for employees having contact with children and adoptive and foster parents.

Senator LANGERHOLC, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

**SB 470 (Pr. No. 490)**

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 19557, on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 36 over the Redbank Creek, Brookville Borough, Jefferson County, as the CPT Harry "Bud" Hetrick Memorial Bridge.

**SB 474 (Pr. No. 1181) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for person with disability plate and placard.

**SB 504 (Pr. No. 532)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fees, further providing for exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees.

**SB 851 (Pr. No. 1046)**

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 57053, located over Dixon Run at the intersection of State Route 1012 to Pennsylvania Route 403 in Green Township, Indiana County, as the PVT William L. Hadden Memorial Bridge.

**SB 922 (Pr. No. 1173)**

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 45531, carrying Pennsylvania Route 879 over the West Branch Susquehanna River, Lawrence Township, Clearfield County, as the Gerald "Jerry" Confer Memorial Bridge.

**HB 636 (Pr. No. 593)**

An Act designating the interchange located on I-279 at Camp Horne Road in Ohio Township, Allegheny County, as the Scott F. Hirsh Memorial Interchange.

**HB 1107 (Pr. No. 1146)**

An Act designating the Faxon Interchange of Interstate 180 at Northway Road in Loyalsock Township, Lycoming County, as the Sgts. Thomas Woodruff, Sr., and Hamilton Woodruff Memorial Interchange.

**HB 1120 (Pr. No. 1168)**

An Act designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 3937, carrying Pennsylvania Route 26 over Bloody Run in Everett Borough, Bedford County, as the PFC James E. Williams Memorial Bridge.

**HB 1121 (Pr. No. 1169)**

An Act designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 45676, carrying Pennsylvania Route 26 over Yellow Creek in Hopewell Township, Bedford County, as the Colonel Joseph M. Stine Memorial Bridge.

**HB 1304 (Pr. No. 1396)**

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 48382, on that portion of S.R. 4021 over the Stonycreek River, Hooversville Borough, Somerset County, as the Private First Class Howard Hahn Memorial Bridge.

**HB 1312 (Pr. No. 1404)**

An Act designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 4142, carrying State Route 1001 over the Dunning Creek in the Borough of Bedford, Bedford County, as the CPL William Glen Imler Memorial Bridge.

**RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator DiSANTO, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, reported the following resolution:

**SR 195 (Pr. No. 1162)**

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to oppose the proposal to make an unnecessary and harmful change to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements that affect financial institutions and their customers in this Commonwealth.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Tomlinson.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Comitta.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests a legislative leave for Senator Tomlinson.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Comitta.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Senator K. WARD asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator DUSH, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of May 26, 2021, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of May 26, 2021.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and that the Journal be approved.

On the question,  
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator K. WARD and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Aument	Flynn	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Muth	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Brewster	Haywood	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Judy
Browne	Hutchinson	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Kane	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Langerholc	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	Yudichak
Costa			

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal is approved.

**GUEST OF SENATOR DAVID G. ARGALL  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, as the State Senator who represents the largest constituency of Lithuanian Americans in Pennsylvania, today I have the distinct honor of introducing the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States and Mexico, Audra Plepyté, to the Pennsylvania Senate. The Ambassador has served in this capacity since May, with a long and distinguished career. She earned a certificate in diplomatic studies from Oxford University and degrees from Vilnius University in Lithuania in international relations, political science, and philosophy. Fluent in five languages, the Ambassador has previously served as an adviser to the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Ambassador to Spain, permanent representative of Lithuania to the United Nations, and continues to serve as the President of the Executive Board at UNICEF.

Mr. President, I wish that I was able to introduce her in her native tongue like so many of my constituents, but, unfortunately, *aš nekalbu lietuviškai.*

*(Translation from Lithuanian:)*

I do not speak Lithuanian.

I hope I did not mangle that. Mr. President, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome Ambassador Plepyté to the Pennsylvania Senate today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guest of Senator Argall please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

*(Applause.)*

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair invites the Ambassador of Lithuania to please address the Senate.

Ambassador PLEPYTÉ. Mr. President, thank you very much. First of all, thank you, Senator Argall, for a wonderful introduction and perfect Lithuanian. Mr. President, honorable Members

of the Senate, it is an honor for me to address you today at this Session as the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States. Lithuania and the United States are strategic allies, and next year we will mark the 100-year anniversary of the diplomatic relations between our countries. Though, the interaction between our people lasted for centuries.

For instance, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, our statesman and military leader who left his mark in Philadelphia as well, was a national hero of Lithuania, Poland, and also the United States. He fought for our independence from Russia, and later, as a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, he was on the U.S. side in the American War of Independence. Throughout the centuries, Lithuanians and Americans were united by the same values and aspirations, and Pennsylvania has always had a special and historical place in the Lithuanian-U.S. relations.

At the time of the Declaration of American Independence, the Liberty Bell and ideas of equality and freedom were heard all over the world, including Lithuania. They inspired us to stand up for our common rights and values, and Pennsylvania was the first Lithuanian destination in the United States. Lithuanians, who started settling in this State in the 19th century, were attracted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a cradle of liberty and opportunity. First, they found work at the coal mines, but soon Lithuanians were opening new schools, social clubs, and churches, expanding their businesses and cultural lives in Pennsylvania and throughout the country.

Today, Pennsylvania is a home for over 80,000 Lithuanians. In the State we can encounter many Lithuanian signs and symbols, including names of towns, streets, and lakes. The Lithuanian festival in Schuylkill County is the longest-running ethnic festival of any nationality in the United States, going strong for over 100 years. Behind some American celebrities, known Pennsylvanians, we can also unveil Lithuanian descent. For instance, iconic actor Charles Bronson--or Jurgis Bučinskis in Lithuanian--was the son of Lithuanian parents born in the coal region town of Ehrenfeld. From a legendary American football quarterback, Johnny Unitas, born in Pittsburgh, to the electrifying singer, Pink, from Doylestown, many Americans with roots in Lithuania have made use of the freedoms and opportunities offered to them by this great State and have made, and continue to make, their contribution to the prosperity and the prominence of your country.

The ties between Lithuania and Pennsylvania are vast and still developing. Our cooperation is exceptional. Just to name a few, the Pennsylvania National Guard and Lithuanian Armed Forces mark the 27th anniversary of their close partnership this year. In 2019, Governor Tom Wolf visited Lithuania, opening new opportunities to develop our relationship. Lithuania and Pennsylvania share common purpose to ensure safety and security for both our peoples, be it protecting NATO's eastern flank with contribution of troops or addressing the common challenge of COVID-19. I am very proud that last summer my country shared with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania some critical medical supplies to fight the pandemic.

We also find ways to increase and deepen our economic ties and cooperation in science and new technologies. Lithuanian companies work along with U.S. partners in designing one of the most advanced lasers in the world, producing common components of the vaccines against COVID-19, or sending satellites to space using SpaceX. I am happy that we continue to encounter

new opportunities for us. For instance, tomorrow I will be back in Harrisburg with the Lithuanian Minister of Agriculture, who will be meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture of Pennsylvania and exploring ways to expand our mutually beneficial cooperation in the agricultural sector as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to emphasize that the Lithuanian relationship with Pennsylvania, and the United States as a whole, is based on our common values. This is what makes our transatlantic bond unbreakable. Coming from a country that has endured the brutal oppression of Soviet and Nazi regimes and found the strength to break free, I am proud that Lithuania has made a pledge to support the countries and people who are still suffering from authoritarian regimes. The key strength of the Western democracies is not only the mighty economy or powerful military, but also our democratic values and principles. We can make a better use of our greatest strength. The whole free world looks up to and counts on American leadership in defense of the universal values around the globe, and Lithuania is with you. The people of Pennsylvania understand this responsibility well. Let us continue to work for a better future for our countries and our people. I thank you very much.

(Applause.)

#### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Comitta has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming students from the Woodland Hills School District, communities that Senator Brewster and I have the pleasure of working with and representing. Today in the gallery we have some young folks, as I mentioned, from the Woodland Hills School District, and they are here today as part of the AP comparative government and the AP U.S. government and politics courses at Woodland Hills. I hope today has been an interesting lesson for them and that these bright individuals have found it interesting as it relates to their studies in government.

Mr. President, it is my understanding, when I met with some of them earlier this morning, that for many of them, this is their very first visit to our beautiful Capitol building. I am certain that this will not be the last that we see or hear from these young men and women. I expect someday to see some of them here working on our floor, maybe as Members, or working here as staff folks in this General Assembly, working on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania. In fact, they have already shown an incredible initiative in the democratic process. These students collectively organized and carried out a voter registration drive back in our districts. Not only are they involved in studying the important workings of our governmental system, they are also encouraging their peers to do the same. Participation, as we all know in the political process, is the best way to fight for the changes that one wants to see happen. I applaud them for the work that they have already done, ask them to continue to do so, and urge them to do so.

I hope their visit here today is rewarding to all of them, and I ask that they be recognized here on the Senate floor. I would be remiss if I did not mention that they are here today with their teacher, Mr. Brad Zolnak, who is encouraging them to stay committed to learning and understanding the governmental process. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming the wonderful students from Woodland Hills High School.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Costa please rise so the Senate can give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Blair, Senator Judy Ward.

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, today I welcome Stewart and Nancy McClelland and their four grandchildren to our Chamber. We have Camden McClelland, who is 16, and Adelyn McClelland, who is 13, they both live in Pittsburgh; and we have Sophia McClelland, who is 12, and Matthias McClelland, who is 9, and they reside in Duncansville. Nancy is now retired from Reliance Bank, where she was very active in the Blair County Chamber, serving on several committees including serving as a chamber ambassador, which she continues to do. Stewart is a senior pastor at the Altoona Bible Church in Altoona. Stewart and Nancy are extremely active in their church community, but above all, they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren; and we are very excited to show them our beautiful Pennsylvania Capitol. Stewart and Nancy reside in Hollidaysburg in Blair County. Please give a warm Senate welcome to the McClelland family.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Judy Ward please rise so the Senate can give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

#### **GUEST OF SENATOR KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from York, Senator Phillips-Hill.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce today's guest Chaplain, Pastor Reuben Hilliard from Gateway Church International, located in York. Having started in Columbia, Pennsylvania, Gateway Church has called York home for over 15 years. The church's mission is to reveal God in power, love, and truth. Their values are prayer, community and service, just to name a few. Gateway Church practices their mission and shares their values by hosting and participating in community events like National Night Out, the Manna Project, and Let Us Worship in Washington, D.C. Would my colleagues please join me in giving a warm Senate welcome to Pastor Reuben Hilliard.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guest of Senator Phillips-Hill please rise so the Senate can give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

### GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN I. KANE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Kane.

Senator KANE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two members of my district staff who are here in Harrisburg today. My constituent services director, Nancy Love, and one of our constituent services representatives, Jiana Graham. Both Nancy and Jiana work in my district office in the City of Chester. Today, with our constituent services team, they have worked to plan dozens of events from veterans luncheons, to film screenings, to informational resource sessions; met with community members and organizations across Delaware and Chester Counties; and helped constituents access unemployment benefits, apply for State funding resources, and submitted documentations for pardons. If you stop by my office in Chester, you will likely be welcomed by Nancy or Jiana. I am grateful for their dedication and service to the community and the 9th Senatorial District, and for all their hard work for our office. Please join me in welcoming Nancy and Jiana to Harrisburg.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Kane please rise so the Senate can give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

### GUESTS OF SENATOR NIKIL SAVAL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Saval.

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to welcome my parents, Mayasundra Shree, my dad, and my mother, Radha Srikantaiah, to the Capitol. They are residents of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. They arrived in the United States as immigrants from India in 1970. My father with a Ph.D. in biochemistry and my mother, in the State of New Mexico, earned a master's in microbiology. In their years in the United States, they have worked in the sciences and restaurant industry, raised two children, and enjoyed 51 years of marriage. (Applause.) This is their first time in the Capitol. Please join me in extending them a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Saval please rise so we can give you a very warm Senate welcome.

(Applause.)

### PERMISSION TO ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise and ask for the opportunity for a special order of business to speak--and a moment of silence that I will ask for in a few moments--but to speak about the tragedy that occurred at Tree of Life Synagogue 3 years ago today, not many hours before this. It seems like a long time ago, but in many ways it feels like yesterday that I received a call from my brother, actually, that morning, that there had been a shooting at the synagogue in Squirrel Hill. That was followed by a call from my daughter, who was a nurse at Children's at the time, saying that she was called into the hospital because of a

mass shooting in Squirrel Hill. At that point we did not know what was actually happening, but I can tell you that I know that community well.

That synagogue is in a neighborhood I grew up in and our family lived in for over 50 years, two to three blocks away. I remember attending bar and bat mitzvahs there with my friends on many occasions, and other events that took place there; and it really is incomprehensible to me that someone would enter this very sacred space with the intent to kill, to murder good people in prayer who were taking part, on a Saturday morning, in their religious traditions. The shooter took 11 lives that day, some of whom I knew personally, and knew well. It took a sense of peace and security from our Squirrel Hill community and the surrounding community for the last several years that we have been dealing with. But one thing I can tell you about the neighborhood I grew up in, Squirrel Hill, it is a strong neighborhood, and together, we have all banded together to heal. Certainly, that healing is not done as we know.

Mr. President, I ask that all of us wrap our arms around them, continue to do so, regardless of our religious beliefs, our background, or where we come from, our hometowns. Shortly after the event, there was a Jewish poem for comfort that was shared many times during the remainder of October and November for the past couple of years. I would like to share with all of you again today. "As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now part of us as we remember them." We were all changed that day from those unspeakable acts of violence, and we will never forget the lives that were lost that day. Let us reflect on them. In a few moments, I will be asking my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence, but at this point, I know that there are some other Members who would like to speak as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." That idea is no less true today than it was when Dr. King spoke those words so many years ago. Yet we would be foolish to believe that that arc bends on its own. That it bends without the sacrifice of people like Dr. King and the countless others who have fought against hate and ignorance throughout human history. The massacre that took place 3 years ago today in Squirrel Hill at the Tree of Life Synagogue is an example of what still confronts us. That horror was the result of one of the oldest hatreds that we as humans have confronted, anti-Semitism. Seventy-six years after the Holocaust, anyone who had hoped that the planned genocide of over 6 million Jews would have ended anti-Semitism once and for all has had those hopes dashed time and time again.

Before our older son's bar mitzvah a number of years ago, I converted to Judaism. I did so for many reasons; one had to do with the understanding that one day my children would encounter anti-Semitism. They were young at the time and so they had no sense of that, of course, but I knew it would happen; and when it did, I wanted them to know that I stood with them and their mother, my wife. Never at that time did I imagine that it would happen in so horrific a manner on Shabbat, in a synagogue right here in our own State of Pennsylvania. So it is appropriate that we pause today to remember those victims, but it will be a hollow tribute indeed if we do not also resolve as we leave this building today to continue to do the important work of bending

the arc towards justice by speaking out forcefully against anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, intolerance toward immigrants to our country, and all forms of hate. Let that be our mission as Americans, all. Let us not cower; rather, we need to be strong.

We always need to be strong in the face of hate, ignorance, and violence. If we are, what Dr. King said so many years ago will continue to be true. If we are, we will truly honor the memories of those who perished 3 years ago today. I believe that we will. For despite this horrible tragedy, and despite the many injustices that we read about week-in and week-out here in our country and throughout the world, I have faith that we have come this far as a people and that we are not going to lose that line now. That we are not going to lose our way at this point in our history.

I will close with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi that I believe, like Dr. King's quote, is no less true today, but, again, needs our constant vigilance and work to make reality. "Remember that all through history, there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Always." Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, like Senator Costa, I am a native of Pittsburgh as well, of Squirrel Hill. I went to school there as he did. We both went to the same high school, Taylor Allderdice, as I assume many of the victims and members of their families also attended Taylor Allderdice High School. I, too, have been at that synagogue many times, and I should note that that synagogue actually houses three congregations: Tree of Life, itself, which was the physical building; Dor Hadash; and New Light Congregation. On that fateful morning, all three of those congregations were meeting, and were wantonly, many of them, gunned down in a horrific murder. This was the most deadly act of violent anti-Semitism that American Jews have ever experienced; and I can tell you as a member of the Jewish faith, it rocked us to our core. How could this happen? We have learned about the Holocaust; we have learned about so many events in history; we are taught in our religious schools about anti-Semitism and its impacts; and to see this happen in our country, in my own community, was devastating. Since then, acts of anti-Semitism in this country and in the world have soared. It is very, very troubling to me, as it should be to all of us.

I want you to note, too, that those individuals who perished that day, they were the faithful. They were the ones who came every Shabbat, every Saturday, so that a service could be held, because unless there was a minyan, or a group of 10 people there, you cannot say the prayers that need to be said; and for those who are there to honor family members who have passed away, they cannot say that prayer, that special prayer that needs to be said. So I hope that helps us to understand how particularly devastating it was to lose those individuals. I understand that today a tree planting will occur in Schenley Park, which is not far from the Tree of Life building, and that 11 trees will be planted in memory of those 11 individuals. I cannot think of a more fitting and beautiful tribute because that is a living thing, that is something that will continue to grow and serve as a reminder to us of what happened there.

But more than anything else, what I hope we will note, and as we say in the Jewish faith, l'dor v'dor, from generation to genera-

tion. Let us make it our solemn duty, no matter who we are, to teach our children and for us to speak out against baseless and destructive hatred against people of any color, creed, religion, whoever they may be; let us understand the ramifications of that day. If there is anything that we take from the memory of that tragic day is that we all resolve to continue to speak out against hate. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, it is fitting today that we remember, 3 years ago, the lives of 11 souls in prayer were taken by a gunman at the Tree of Life.

It was a devastating day. It was a devastating act, and we stand together as one when we are attacked. That was an attack not only on the members of the Tree of Life, but it was also on other congregations, on our American Jewish community, and our country. Most importantly, the horrific incident hit home for all of us, and it left many of us so dumbfounded as to, how could this happen here? How could this happen? It hit us because--for me, anyway--it was so close to home.

Out of this act came a resilience. Resilience through acts of love, kindness, all of which rang through our communities, our region, our Commonwealth, and our nation--from the first responders who came to the rescue, to the members of all ages from the Squirrel Hill community holding vigils, to the outpouring of compassion from a few words that now personify and define our Steel City community, "stronger than hate." Those are words that none of us should ever forget. I wear my t-shirt proudly and feel very good when I see that on someone. That is a community, that is who we are. So let us not forget those words and let us never forget the violence and the families and friends who were affected so horribly that day. Let us all stand together as one, forever, against that kind of terrorism. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their remarks and also thank everyone for their attentiveness to this important day. To that end, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me and ask the Senate to have a moment of silence for the wonderful people we lost that day. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Please rise and observe a moment of silence in honor of all those victims.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the victims of the TREE OF LIFE.)

## RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Communications and Technology, followed by a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room and via Zoom.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus as well.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Communications and Tech-

nology, followed by Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

### LEAVE CHANGED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request that Senator Dush's leave be changed from a personal leave to a legislative leave.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests that Senator Dush's leave be changed from a personal leave to a legislative leave. Without objection, the leave will be changed.

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brooks.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brooks. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

### CALENDAR

#### SENATE CONCURRENT REGULATORY REVIEW RESOLUTION No. 1, ADOPTED

Senator K. WARD, without objection, called up from page 8 of the Calendar, as a Special Order of Business, **Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution disapproving the Environmental Quality Board regulations on CO2 Budget Trading Program.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, I rise today to ask for support for this resolution that is before the Senate. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, that is what we are dealing with. The purpose of this, allegedly, was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and we were going to accomplish this by joining with 11 other States, namely: Connecticut; Delaware; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York; Rhode Island; Vermont; and Virginia. The theory is that by selling certain environmental allowances to businesses, they will continue in business. Proceeds from these allowances, by way of auctions, can then be distributed to various governmental projects. According to projections that I have seen, these allowances will generate anywhere from \$100 to \$600 million a year, depending on who you are listening to and what day of the week it is.

The reality is that we have virtually nothing in common with the RGGI States that we are proposing to join up with. These are the States which need and depend on natural gas but continually blocked efforts to build pipelines to get Pennsylvania's clean-burning natural gas to markets where it is needed. Instead, we have many examples where these States would prefer to buy natural gas from Russia.

The other reality is that RGGI is a carbon tax imposed without legislative approval. The IRRC findings and reviews said that the amount of proceeds derived from this project would far exceed any amount needed to service the project and, therefore, it would be considered a tax, which is not approved by the legislature. Further reality is that the allowances that Pennsylvania is permitted to sell depend on approval from the RGGI organization composed of the 11 other States. So, in effect, Pennsylvania is surrendering a large part of the control over its energy industry to 11 other States, as well as its own environmental concerns of how we produce that energy. RGGI is a program that is designed to reward polluters; that is the reality of it. Without polluters to buy allowances, there is no market for RGGI allowances and the whole program fails. Just think about that. You need polluters to buy allowances. So, if we eliminate the alleged pollution that is occurring with greenhouse gases, we have no need and there is no basis for RGGI.

Another reality is that Pennsylvania's average electric price is 9.81 cents per kilowatt hour, and that is about 7 percent below the U.S. average. On the other hand, the reality is the RGGI States fill the top 4 slots for the highest rates in the country, and are 8 out of 10 in the top 10. I will give you some examples: Connecticut's rate is 18.66 cents per kilowatt hour; Rhode Island, 18.49 cents per kilowatt hour; Massachusetts, 18.4 cents per kilowatt hour; New Hampshire, 17.1 cents per kilowatt hour; Vermont, 15.36 cents per kilowatt hour; New York, 14.3 cents per kilowatt hour; Maine, 14.01 cents per kilowatt hour; and New Jersey is 13.42 cents per kilowatt hour. Remember, compare that with Pennsylvania's rate of 9.81 cents per kilowatt hour. Those RGGI States are the ones, once again, that will be making the decisions controlling what happens here in Pennsylvania.

Another reality is, according to the study done by PJM, which is backed up by information from the Penn State Center for Energy Law, RGGI will cause an increase in electric rates as high as 18 percent. That is across the board and, as we know, when you raise rates like that, who is affected? It is the low-income who pay a larger percentage of their income just to survive. Another reality is that RGGI will render about two-thirds of Pennsylvania's current electric capacity less competitive. That means it will be less competitive than surrounding States--for example, West Virginia and Ohio. Another reality is that DEP's own modeling data concludes that 90.1 percent of emissions gained in Pennsylvania by RGGI will be offset by increases in CO2 emissions in non-RGGI PJM States such as Ohio and West Virginia.

Also, another reality is that according to a Penn State study cited by DEP, specifically, we estimate that 86 percent of the CO2 reductions from Pennsylvania joining RGGI would be offset by emissions increases in PJM and our other RGGI States. Another reality, as a result of the state-of-the-art technology, CO2 emissions from fossil fuel generation have been reduced by 38 percent in Pennsylvania since 2002, and that is more than all the other RGGI States combined. Another fact, according to DEP modeling in PJM, in the first 10 years, there will be .89 percent

reduction in CO2 emissions--that is written .0089, and if my seventh grade math is correct, that is eighty-nine ten-thousandths. That is the reduction. That is less than 1 percent. According to the Eastern Interconnect modeling, the reduction in CO2 emissions is .168 percent in the first 10 years, and that is written as .00168. I am not even sure how you pronounce that reduction, it is so small. Again, it is obviously significantly less than 1 percent.

Another reality, when environmental benefits could not be shown, all of the sudden DEP switched from considering the purpose of RGGI from reducing CO2 emissions to extolling health benefits. The reality is that the methodology used to calculate collateral health benefits is identified by EPA as a screening tool only, with considerable limitations. Then DEP took that screening tool and used it in such a way that they assigned the same monetized health benefits to all areas of the Commonwealth, regardless of the location of the reductions, the population, the exposure, the current health of the population, and whether or not the area is achieving and maintaining the national ambient air quality standards. Based on a presentation by DEP on July 22, 2020, DEP indicated that great improvements have been achieved in ambient air quality in Pennsylvania. Significantly, the 2017-2019 ambient monitoring data collected by DEP demonstrated that ambient air quality standards, which are developed to protect all members of the population, were being met at the vast majority of all the monitoring sites in the State. The conclusion is that further emissions reduction by Pennsylvania electric generators, due to RGGI, will not produce the monetized health benefit calculated by DEP.

Another reality is, and many have heard me say this repeatedly, there can be no clean or green energy without fossil fuel. Every energy project undertaken involves a manufacturing process which is based on fossil fuel, irrespective of whether it is windmills, solar panels, nuclear power plants, hydropower plants, or whatever, fossil fuel is involved in the manufacturing process. We can take that even one step further to say that there can be no cleaner green energy without mining. A reality which came to light today is, candidate Josh Shapiro stated RGGI does not satisfy the criticisms that it will hurt the Pennsylvania energy industry, drive up electric prices, or do little to curtail greenhouse gas. I happen to agree with all three statements. We have addressed every one of those issues in my comments before this. We have addressed the fact that it will drive up energy costs, do little for the environment, and hurt the energy industry. Candidate Shapiro has clearly considered the detrimental impact of RGGI on Pennsylvania. I can only hope that Attorney General Shapiro looks at RGGI in the same light.

When you put all this together, the conclusion is this: RGGI is a license to pollute by allowing polluters to buy credits and continue to pollute. RGGI bases its purported monetary benefit on the philosophy that the population must continue to pollute rather than base it on a philosophy based on solving environmental problems. RGGI promotes air pollution by sending thousands of jobs to States in foreign countries which have far fewer environmental standards than those here in Pennsylvania when it comes to utilizing coal or any of our other energy production. RGGI will significantly raise electric rates, which affect our most vulnerable population such as low-income and seniors. RGGI will have virtually no impact on CO2 reduction in Pennsylvania;

and, as we have often said, RGGI is an unauthorized carbon tax imposed without legislative action.

RGGI fails miserably in accomplishing its stated purpose. I might add, if we want to affect the environment, there is an easy way to do it and that is to focus on capping or plugging the thousands of abandoned or orphaned wells that exist here in Pennsylvania. That is a way we can make an impact, by solving a problem, not creating a new problem. Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote on the resolution, pending, to disregard the RGGI proposal, which is pending before this body. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the resolution and in strong support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI will best position the Commonwealth for economic success and position Pennsylvania to be a clean energy leader. I have spoken at length about RGGI's tremendous importance in reducing emissions, combating climate change, improving public health, addressing environmental justice communities, and more. These are all important and key reasons why we should join RGGI. My colleagues will elaborate upon those significant, positive, and wide-ranging impacts in their comments today. Some have concerns about the loss of fossil fuel jobs and the effects on communities. I understand, and I share your concerns. However, coal is declining because of market forces related to abundant and inexpensive natural gas. Coal-fired power plants are older facilities with higher emissions and higher costs of operation. This decline is already happening--not because of RGGI--and it will continue to occur with or without RGGI.

The good news is that with RGGI and with my legislation, Senate Bill No. 15, the RGGI Investments Act, coal workers and all Pennsylvanians living in impacted communities have a chance to succeed. With RGGI and the RGGI Investments Act, we have a plan, and it is the only plan on the table that will invest in our future. With RGGI and the RGGI Investments Act, we can help impacted workers and communities with workforce development, career transition and job training, small business assistance, public health services, and resources to school districts and other community assets. In addition, it is estimated that RGGI will add 30,000 jobs and \$1.9 billion to the gross State product of Pennsylvania by 2030. Currently, there is no funding source to help displaced workers in the coal industry and impacted communities. RGGI would invest in people, the economy, jobs, and Pennsylvania's clean energy future.

Some have voiced concerns that RGGI will lead to higher energy costs. The reality is, electricity prices in RGGI States fell by 5.7 percent in the first 10 years of the program while they increased in the rest of the country. In States that have seen a short-term increase in electricity prices, it has been extremely modest. For instance, Virginia just passed and began participation in RGGI, and its residents pay only about \$2.39 a month more for cleaner air and healthier communities. Furthermore, any short-term increases are expected to level off and fall even lower as significant RGGI funds are dedicated to being reinvested in energy efficiency. Pennsylvania already has lower electricity prices than neighboring States. That would not change under RGGI. As a member of PJM, Pennsylvania is part of a network to ensure adequacy and reliability in the flow of electricity on the



grid. That would not change under RGGI. As a net exporter, the largest energy exporter in the United States, Pennsylvania has ample electricity generation capacity to cover both in-State and significant out-of-State electricity demand. That, too, would not change under RGGI.

What will change is that we will have a more stable, diverse electricity portfolio with the same strong and reliable structure to deliver cleaner energy to consumers and companies. What will change with RGGI is we will be better prepared to succeed in the future with workers who are ready to thrive in clean energy careers. What will change with RGGI is Pennsylvania will be better equipped to be a clean energy leader. We all want to see Pennsylvania workers excel in strong, high-paying, family-sustaining jobs. We all want to see Pennsylvania consumers and companies have readily available access to the reliable, affordable, homegrown energy they need to drive our economy. The reality is that RGGI is the path forward for Pennsylvania. A clean energy economy is the future, and that transition is well underway. RGGI will best position Pennsylvania to not only be part of the clean energy future, but to lead the way.

Mr. President, I urge support for RGGI, and I urge a "no" vote on this disapproval resolution. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I adamantly rise in support of this disapproval resolution regarding the Governor's actions going through the regulatory process with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

If there has ever been a time in Pennsylvania's history that serves as a crossroads as to what the future of this Commonwealth may look like--what kind of opportunities our families will have, and our job creators' ability to thrive--it is this one. It starts, Mr. President, with the fact that we are willing to turn over one of the natural resources and gifts that we have been blessed with in this Commonwealth--our ability to be one of the premier, power-producing States in this entire country--to a mix of 11 other States. Eleven other States who have not done as good of a job at reducing CO2 as we have over the last 25 years and who have refused to accept our means of infrastructure to move natural power resources to them, yet seem to be perfectly fine with having tankers from Russia and other countries bringing them gas and other forms of electricity sitting in Boston Harbor to go to those 11 other RGGI States. That is not in Pennsylvania's best interest.

I heard PJM brought up, and what is amazing is that we had a hearing with PJM just a few weeks ago. It is beyond clear that other States, including RGGI States, have projects in their queue, which may never happen to occur, regarding windmills, solar panels, or other alternative forms. The one constant empowering the PJM grid is the reliability of Pennsylvania energy. It was more than evident in their testimony what it would mean to the stability and reliability of that grid with large chunks of Pennsylvania's power perhaps being taken offline.

Often, Mr. President, we talk about what it will take to turn Pennsylvania's economy around and to have good-paying jobs in this State. The answer is not to put forth policies that are going to cause us to lose thousands of jobs--good, family-sustaining jobs--and to continually watch with uncertainty as investment goes to West Virginia and Ohio, who will be more than happy to sell us--at a premium--the energy we need that we would lose

under wrongheaded policies like this. I often hear folks say that they can relate; we understand that this may impact your job, your family, your livelihood. That does not help when it comes to people worrying about how they are going to put food on the table. That is not going to help saying, am I going to have a job where I am able to pay my child's college tuition or our mortgage. When you talk about a policy that could absolutely increase people's electricity bills by 18 percent; it is no stranger to any of us what people in Pennsylvania and around this country are faced with right now with inflationary costs across the board.

But what people need to understand with a policy like this is that you are not just going to see, in your blue energy envelope that comes with your bill, an increase of 18 percent. What you are likely to also see is everything you engage in, in life--the food you buy is going to cost more because of higher energy costs, the healthcare you receive is going to increase in cost because their costs are going to go up as well, and the list goes on and on. Is that something that we can look the people of Pennsylvania in the face and say, we want to put those types of cost burdens on you in order to give elected officials, politicians, hundreds of millions of dollars, who will then decide how that money will be spent? That money is better spent in the pockets of the people who we actually serve and their families.

What makes it more egregious, Mr. President, is often we debate policies here in Pennsylvania where we talk about what we are going to do and what are we getting in return. What is the impact? According to the Department of Environmental Protection's own internal modeling, what they are looking to do with RGGI will only get a return of a .03 percent--I am going to repeat that--a .03 percent reduction in CO2 over the course of 10 years. I think the question that we should all ask ourselves is simple. Is a .03 percent decrease worth thousands of jobs? Is a .03 percent decrease in CO2 worth higher energy bills, service costs, and product costs across the board? That is not the formula to a successful economy.

Mr. President, it is with a great enthusiasm that I encourage my colleagues to approve this disapproval resolution, for if we are truly going to continue to grow Pennsylvania, to grow our population, to grow our industries, and to have a reliable source of energy for all that we do, we need to adamantly oppose wrongheaded decisions that are being tried to be implemented, like the Wolf Administration is doing with RGGI.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1. The tactic of this body has been to delay and attempt to stop RGGI from moving forward. This body has now taken at least four separate votes to this effect, and I have stood up here on the floor multiple times to make the same plea that we stop the delay. Not only that, but we have known that this process will end with the same result we have gotten previously, a veto from the Governor. Mr. President, it is time we end these tactics. This is a process that has been occurring for over 2 years now with extensive public comments and with multiple votes from bipartisan advisory commissions. RGGI is an initiative that has wide support throughout the Commonwealth. I personally continue to receive hundreds of emails in support of RGGI. I was elected to this body with a great sense of urgency

to reduce Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions, and I was sworn into this body to protect the Constitution of the Commonwealth, which includes Article I, Section 27 that grants every Pennsylvanian "a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." I will do my duty and I rise to encourage my colleagues to do the same.

As elected officials, we are tasked with making decisions that will impact our constituents and this Commonwealth. The impact of some decisions lasts a few years, others last generations. Whatever decisions we make, we know we are impacting the lives of the people who we serve, and we are determining our State's ability to adapt and thrive in the future. We need to move the Commonwealth forward to create new jobs and to support growing industries rather than seeking to keep the status quo in support of dying industry and polluters. Change is inevitable, and refusing to adapt and accept logic does not shield us from its impact, it hurts us. Joining RGGI will allow us to transition our economy for the future. We can create new jobs while assisting individuals whose jobs are displaced by funding workforce development--providing additional unemployment supplementary tax revenue for local school districts--and, by the way, we should pass Senate Bill No. 15. RGGI will generate nearly \$2 billion in gross State products and provide a net increase of nearly 30,000 jobs. It will allow us to make greater investments in energy efficiency and provide supplemental assistance to our residents with the most need, saving consumers money on their electricity rates. We can move the Commonwealth forward, but by continuing down this path, we have decided that our citizens deserve less. I cannot stand by that and I ask more of my colleagues. End these tactics and vote "no" on Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, when implemented in a State that exports electricity like Pennsylvania, is nothing more than government control. Government takes from energy producers; that is hard-earned money out of the wallets of our ratepayers. Then, the government decides who should receive that tax money. In my district near Masontown, Fayette County, 500 family-sustaining jobs were lost in 2013 when the Hatfield's Ferry coal-fired power plant shut down. That community hears that new buyers will be coming in to change this plant to a coal and natural gas combination plant with new technology: a much cleaner plant producing low-cost energy. This community will never see these jobs come back if these extreme taxes from RGGI are imposed. What company would invest in this new cleaner plant with that kind of tax burden? But I bet you will see that investment in nearby Ohio. I ask my colleagues to stand with me and vote in support of this disapproval resolution to block the implementation of RGGI.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Saval.

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1. Let us establish some common grounding: Pennsylvania is an energy State. This is as true now as it has been for the Commonwealth's entire history. We have had coal mining since before the Ameri-

can Revolution; the first commercial oil well in the world was drilled in Titusville in 1859; and the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery in Philadelphia, in my district, one of the oldest refineries in the world, began operations in 1870. Throughout our cities, towns, and rural areas, generation after generation of Pennsylvanians made the industrialization of America possible, decreasing poverty, advancing health and safety, and improving the overall quality of life for households and communities across the country. Pennsylvania has always been an energy State with a history older than our nation and continuing through to today. We can remain an energy leader, charting a path for a vibrant clean energy sector that lifts our economies and our communities for the decades to come, if we recognize the trends in the sector and make the right decisions. Here is one such trend: from 2017 to 2019, job growth in the clean energy sector was five times that of overall statewide employment growth, with the clean energy sector already employing more than twice as many workers as those in fossil fuels. So when I look ahead to our future, I am disheartened to see my colleagues standing with their backs turned against our success. RGGI is the first market-based cap and invest regional initiative in the United States. Across the northeast and mid-Atlantic, Pennsylvania is the only State not yet participating. If you look at a map--it has been alluded to before--you see Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia, and Pennsylvania appears as this missing piece, a gap into which our future as a leader in the nation's energy sector is being swallowed.

Much of our discourse here in the Senate has been focused on the modest cap on emissions that the entry into RGGI would stipulate. While in fact, the much greater change, the potential for sweeping investment, has gone largely undiscussed. The opportunity that RGGI holds for Pennsylvania's future is staggering. RGGI is projected to infuse our State's economy with money and jobs. Conservative modeling for RGGI's impact shows that joining RGGI would bring our Commonwealth \$300 million in revenue each year, along with a net of tens of thousands of new clean energy jobs. Pennsylvania's future as an energy-generating State will grow, expand, and solidify, and the people of Pennsylvania will benefit directly via cumulative increase in disposable personal income. I want to note that my colleague who spoke earlier, Senator Comitta, has outlined a plan for investments in RGGI.

This is not theoretical, in other words. The 11 other RGGI States along the seaboard are, right now, bringing in hundreds of millions of dollars that they are using to repair and weatherize the homes of their low- and moderate-income residents. The exorbitant utility burdens that residents face are being replaced with mended homes that enable them to keep their families safe and healthy right now while lowering their emissions for their safety in the future. These States are also expanding their clean energy infrastructure to meet demand and build resiliency into their energy systems. Pennsylvanians want these benefits. In a survey by Susquehanna Polling and Research, by ratios of more than 2 to 1, voters indicated that they wanted to see our State government assist communities that have already been experiencing job loss as a result of the ongoing transition away from coal-fired power plants and that they feel pride at seeing Pennsylvania take proactive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and its harmful effect on the environment. These are initiatives that RGGI revenue will fund.

In 2019, Pennsylvania ranked 11th in the nation for the number of jobs in the clean energy sector. Not bad. This year we ranked 12th in the nation for number of jobs in energy efficiency, also not bad. Yet these numbers hide something, which is that we are underperforming for our potential. When looked at per capita, our comparative ranking for energy efficiency jobs puts us 38th among States. With increased jobs, State income, and disposable personal income to gain along with cleaner air, water, and a decrease in the carbon emissions that are killing our constituents, neighbors, friends, family and loved ones every single year, I am dismayed that our colleagues would stand in the way. We honor our workers, put money in our communities, and make Pennsylvania strong now and for the decades to come by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I hope that my colleagues will heed the wishes of their constituents who want clean air, clean water, and the influx of jobs and resources that RGGI will bring so that we build this future together. I urge a "no" vote on this resolution. Thank you.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I stand in favor of this motion for two reasons, and they are completely different, but I want to spend a moment articulating them. First, growing up and living in central Pennsylvania, I think of all the small towns like Lock Haven, Clearfield, St. Mary's, and Johnstown--which is not necessarily so small--Altoona, where, when I grew up, they were vibrant towns that had industry. Many of those organized labor, blue-collar jobs, but lots of industry in those communities, and because of really bad public policy decisions, mostly by Washington, D.C., a lot of those jobs left. All in the name of going overseas for cheap labor. One by one we saw factory after factory shut down. What we have seen in the wake of that is everywhere--we are going through the census right now, and, again, central and western Pennsylvania, where a lot of those blue-collar workers, factory jobs that supported families and communities, went away. Our population is not growing at the level and you are seeing population reduction after reduction, which is having pressure on our schools and our State System of Higher Education because we do not have the population to support all the schools that we once did. Those decisions made by policymakers at the time had a significantly negative impact on our communities.

So here we are. We get this lifeline, right? Energy, with the introduction of the Marcellus Shale adding to our energy portfolio. So we have a chance to grow industry again here in Pennsylvania. To create those good-paying, family-sustaining jobs in communities that have been struggling to provide that. This public policy decision by the Governor would have a tremendous negative impact on that growth of jobs. That is why you are seeing every building trade group out there supporting this measure of us to stop Pennsylvania's entry into the regional gas alliance. You know, we cannot have a first-rate economy if we do not have jobs that support families. The energy sector is a major area of growth for jobs. Look, we have to produce energy in this

country, we have to produce energy in this Commonwealth. For those States that do not want to do that, I understand, but at the same time they are still using the energy.

So this is Pennsylvania's lifeline to rebuild those communities, towns, get the natural gas, get the other energy sources out to different communities so that they can develop industry, develop companies. We already have the location, we are close to a big part of the population in the country. Cheap energy, as well, would be a tremendous job creator for Pennsylvania. So we can turn this corner back and make sure that we can create those jobs again, to support those communities, schools, and social services in every one of those communities. This is our chance. This decision to enter into RGGI is sending a terrible message across the country about Pennsylvania. A terrible message that you are going to see lack of investment. We just saw, because of an unfriendly environment, two great Pennsylvania companies, U.S. Steel and Air Products, make a decision to do their investment elsewhere; they did not want to invest in Pennsylvania. They have been investing in Pennsylvania for decades. They found the environment too unfriendly, so they are going to go elsewhere. That is a horrible, horrible message. This, as it was stated by the Attorney General in his release today, does not accomplish what you are looking to accomplish. If we want to improve the environment in this country, on this planet, re-shoring those jobs overseas back to Pennsylvania, back to America, where we do it better and more environmentally friendly, is what we should be focusing on. If we have seen anything from COVID-19 it is that these supply line issues we are having now are because we have been relying on cheap labor overseas for so long. These corporations made this decision, a poor decision, that hurt our communities, and now we are seeing, not having that independence, not having that ability to make those supplies, and all of sudden we have supply line issues everywhere from cars to chickens. It is amazing to watch. So we cannot make another bad public policy decision that is going to continue to hurt our job climate, communities, and healthcare systems. So from that perspective from public policy, that is why I support this motion today.

For another reason as well, which I think is important for all 50 of us who sit in this Chamber, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, from the east, west, central part, we all represent the legislative branch, the people's house. As the institutional officer, I take great pride in my career here in the legislature, and we are an equal body of government. We go first, the executive branch goes second, the judicial branch puts the final stamp. To have the executive branch, unilaterally, make this public policy decision for the people of Pennsylvania without the people's voice, the people's house having weighed in on this is a process that should concern every one of us.

Someday that executive branch may be occupied by a Republican. Someday it will be occupied by Democrats, and do we want the executive branch to outrun us on a major public policy decision? Every environmental organization, multi-State compact that we are in, whether it be the Susquehanna River Basin, the Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware River Basin, every one of those was statutorily passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Governor Rendell, in my time here in the legislature, did a great job of getting environmental policies that he wanted. Whether it be the Growing Greener II or the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, he was able to negotiate with the legislature, get a Republican legislature to pass it, and he signed it into law.

Just because this Governor has not made the case to the legislature to get us to pass this to enter into this compact does not give them the authority to end run the legislature. This is our job, the 50 of us, we have a say in this, it impacts every one of our constituents. To think that the executive branch can unilaterally move past the people's house is something I take major objection to, and all 50 of us should take major objection to, because you may be happy with the public policy decision that the Governor is making today but you may not be happy with the next one. I would like to think that I will be here, whether it is a Republican governor or Democratic governor, making the same argument. They have no authority to do this outside the legislature. We are the people's voice. We need to be heard. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, today I rise in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative--which will offset the Commonwealth's carbon footprint and create opportunities for investment in clean and alternative energy sources--and in opposition to the concurrent resolution before us today.

I do so first and foremost, Mr. President, because combating climate change is a top concern of my constituents. I have heard from many of them, including scores of constituents who are too young to vote but recognize the urgency of this moment and are passionate about protecting the Pennsylvania they will inherit from us. Being a responsible, let alone good, environmental steward means that we must not just look at the quality of the water, air, and earth of our own district, but the entire Commonwealth. It is because of this reality that Pennsylvanians adopted a constitutional amendment back in 1971 recognizing the right of all Pennsylvanians "to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." Today's vote is antithetical to this and to the values of our Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth's own Environmental Quality Board voted to allow Pennsylvania to enter RGGI, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission voted to allow Pennsylvania to enter RGGI, and, most importantly, 3 out of 4 Pennsylvanians want the Commonwealth to join RGGI. The choice to move this resolution when there are so many critical measures being stonewalled is just the latest example of the Senate Majority's unwillingness to heed the priorities of the majority of Pennsylvanians. This resolution is just one more example of Members of this Chamber being far more interested in living in the past, relitigating elections, and questioning COVID-19 safety measures instead of addressing so many of the urgent issues facing Pennsylvanians today and threatening their futures. Supporting initiatives like RGGI is not just the right thing to do because of the positive impacts it is going to have on environmental quality and economic growth, but it is where we are headed as a country and a globe.

Our children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come should not have to shoulder the consequences of our shortsightedness, and history will not look kindly upon those who stand in the way of progress and climate justice. It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this resolution and put Pennsylvania on the path to a cleaner future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I have a few remarks. As chair of the Committee on Labor and Industry, this initiative strikes a death blow to both of those: labor and industry. It truly is a shell game. It is a shell game when it comes to jobs. When we hear people say that we are going to eliminate thousands of really good, family-sustaining jobs right here in Pennsylvania--jobs that belong to our incredibly hard working building trades, our boilermakers, steamfitters, pipe trades, carpenters, all of these hardworking individuals who have trained long and hard and love Pennsylvania; they are raising their families, paying their taxes, creating things right here in Pennsylvania--and they will be losing all those jobs.

So the shell game is: we are going to be producing lots of green jobs for them--wonderful. But you know what? They are not going to stick around. To do what? Lose their homes? Lose their ability to feed their families while they are waiting to be retrained to use a squeegee on some solar panels in a field that has now eliminated some great farmland in Pennsylvania? I do not think so. We are going to lose those families. We are going to lose that.

The shell game includes emissions and climate change. Everyone wants a clean environment. We have children. We want to have clean air, clean water. We all want that. But it is a shell game, Mr. President. Why? I live in the corner of Pennsylvania. I literally live in the arms of West Virginia, the welcoming, opening arms to all of our energy industry. They cannot wait. They are chomping at the bit. They are building coal-fired power plants in Ohio and West Virginia, and they are bringing it over. As a private pilot, I know which way the wind blows. It blows from west to east. So in my little corner of the world, RGGI is going to make my air for my constituents dirtier, because those coal-fired power plants across the border are going to be belching out air dirtier than what we produce right here in Pennsylvania. So how is that going to help my constituents? That is not helping the environment. On top of that, China, right now, is busy building 43 coal-fired power plants because they are not relying on green energy. They are not great stewards of the environment. The last time I checked, in ninth grade science, we all share the same air around the planet, we all share the same atmosphere. How is making Pennsylvania less energy secure helping the environment? It is doing the opposite.

The other shell game: 11 other States are part of this compact. Guess what? They do not produce energy, Pennsylvania does. They are eating our lunch. They want our energy cheap, effective, and clean, but they want us to be taxed to the limit for producing it for them. We cannot transport our clean, natural gas to the northeast, to some of our New England States. Why? They would much rather have tankers from Russia coming into the seaports on our east. That is great for national security.

Pennsylvania can and has been a good steward of the environment. Entering into a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative literally is a bait and switch. We would be providing energy for States that do not want to and bear the burden of it, the cost of it. Our constituents--the people in Pennsylvania--would bear the brunt of increased energy costs and a smaller tax base because hundreds of millions of dollars in capital investment are already fleeing Pennsylvania. They are leaving.

Do we think that for 1 minute if we are entered into this unconstitutional initiative that we are going to be attracting more business to Pennsylvania? Absolutely not. Impossible. For some reason, this administration is doing its level best to shut the doors to any investment in Pennsylvania and ship good-paying jobs out. It is ill advised, it is dangerous, it threatens labor and industry, and we will not have the money we need to actually invest in cleaner energy. Where is that investment going to come from? Right now, in my district, Consol Energy is looking at a potential investment in an energy-producing facility that would use waste coal and biomass to produce a net negative carbon-emitting plant. Do you think they are going to want to stick around and invest millions and millions of dollars when Pennsylvania is doing its level best to chase everybody out? I do not think so.

So, as I have said before, our duty as legislators is to protect our constituents. It is to protect their livelihoods, it is to protect their health and safety. RGGI does none of this. It actually does the opposite. It is a shell game, and I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I do understand the controversy and passion around this issue, and I am going to say that regardless of how you vote, I respect your opinion. So when I stand up today, I want to give you my perspective. I will be voting "no," and I want to tell you why. I recognize that climate change is real and it has to be addressed. I looked at numbers in the 1920s, 2 billion people on this planet; 1971, 3.7 billion people on this planet; today, 7.8 billion people; quadrupled, and it is going to continue to. So common sense tells you that human activity does have something to do with climate in our country and our nation. I read an article yesterday that dismayed me very much, and, in fact, almost surprised me: greenhouse gas emissions hit a record high in 2020 despite lockdowns during the pandemic. I thought that was very interesting. I thought emissions would go down, right? No, because of its cumulative effect. So, for me, what that says is that we are already behind in dealing with climate change and, probably, a little bit too late now. But, for me, a national policy is the ideal approach, but I am not holding my breath that Washington is going to do anything to act anytime soon. So I believe that the Commonwealth and its elected leaders must do something.

A unilateral RGGI policy probably is not the ideal solution. In fact, I am not even certain that it is sound policy, because just as a governor can join it is exactly the reason why he can leave it. It happened in New Jersey. Democratic governor in, RGGI in; Republican governor in, RGGI out. So that concerns me, and that scenario, that exact scenario, is what is playing out in the halls of Harrisburg as of this morning and that is discouraging. What I think we really need to do is have the backing of the General Assembly. That would add more certainty to the process. However, doing nothing to address changing climate is not OK, Mr. President. The private sector even recognizes the need to begin addressing the challenges of climate change. Recently, I had a hearing about sustainability business practices with a lot of corporate companies there; it was with Senator Mensch and the economy, business and job caucus. We learned about the innovative, creative, and meaningful policies that private companies are taking on today to combat concerns about the changing climate.

I have heard today that RGGI is not the way to go when it comes to climate change. OK, so I look legislatively. There were so many alternatives to joining RGGI that could have been enacted and shared bipartisan support. Early in 2019, I joined a group of bipartisan, bicameral lawmakers to attempt to overhaul and expand our alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Law, a law unchanged since its adoption in 2004. Now, we worked months in an attempt to help keep our State's nuclear power plants in operation, as a bridge to cleaner energy options down the road, and also to work on a bill to provide gradual expansions of the AEPS tiers and alternative energy sources. Despite this work, the product of compromise and negotiations, we could not even get the votes to get that initiative out of committee in either Chamber, and shame on us. As we have debated RGGI many times before for many years, I have continually urged and pleaded with the Leaders of this Chamber and the Governor to work together to find some compromise. Mr. President, I would rather be up here supporting a bipartisan initiative to address the challenges of climate change, and I would love to be praising a creative policy that creates a smooth transition to a lower carbon economy here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The type of policy and solution that we all know works best for our collective best interest and was achieved with statesmen and women working together. Unfortunately, we are not there. Here we are, here today. So, I will not be on the side of doing nothing, Mr. President. I will be voting "no" on this joint resolution. This legislation has not acted on--we have not acted on it for years. No proposal--I have nothing else to vote on to combat climate change except for this. That is all I have. That is why I am voting "no," because doing nothing is not an option for me or the people I represent.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, RGGI is a nuclear-tipped, economic cruise missile aimed at the coal-fired power plants and the citizens located in Allegheny, Armstrong, Cambria, and Indiana Counties and throughout the Commonwealth. Those are not my words, those are the words of Sean Lane of Chief Power in his testimony before this General Assembly. One must look at the facts. The fact that RGGI will result in the closing of all coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania and with that go the jobs. It is a fact that RGGI will cause energy prices to rise at a time when every Pennsylvanian is experiencing extreme pain at the pump, struggling to make ends meet. The last thing that they need are rising energy prices. These coal power plants will relocate; they will go to neighboring States, as has been indicated by many of my colleagues who spoke here before. The Senator from Washington County indicated that West Virginia is chomping at the bit. Thank God we have giant fans that will be constructed that will keep all that pollution out of Pennsylvania. Last time I checked, China was not cutting on their coal production power plants. This will result in a tremendous loss of jobs.

Within my district, Conemaugh power plant facts: generates 12.1 million megawatts of energy a year; employs 166 individuals; pays out \$24 million in employee compensation. Gone. Will you be able to make that up with your green energy plans? I do not think so. On Cambria County economic impact, just Cambria County, loss of 590 jobs, \$26 million in employee compensation, \$122 million in indirect economic impact gone with the stroke of

a pen. That is even more concerning, the fact that every other type of agreement has gone through legislative approval except for this, that should raise concern. This is the most disastrous potential for our Commonwealth. Businesses will not relocate here, new businesses will not come here, new power plants will not come here. I just had the opportunity to meet with various stakeholders in Johnstown at the State, Federal, and local level when news of U.S. Steel pulling out of western Pennsylvania and their plan--and they recognize the potential for those types of industry--and we came together in a bipartisan, collaborative manner to discuss: would there be a possibility of perhaps attracting them to the Johnstown region where U.S. Steel got its start? The infrastructure is there; it could not be more perfect. The railways in, the railways out, the workforce, because they recognize what that means, what those jobs mean to our economy. Maybe I am too optimistic to think back to that time when hard work meant something and family-sustaining jobs were the backbone, not only in our Commonwealth, but in our nation.

I would like to share testimony as well, and I will read it verbatim. (*Reading:*)

"This sanction would require existing facilities to purchase additional emission reduction credits in order to expand their operations. Similarly, any companies looking to build new facilities would also be required to obtain additional emission reduction credits than would otherwise be required. This sanction would have a negative impact on growing industries in Pennsylvania, as well as impede Pennsylvania's attractiveness to companies looking to relocate from out-of-state."

Now, on its face, as you hear those words, you think that is a position paper against RGGI? Ironically, it is not. Those words are the words from testimony from DEP. You may say, how is that possible? While the intent that was not specifically focused on RGGI, it was dealing with a hearing we had in the Committee on Transportation on emissions. So if you take a look at this from 10,000 feet, 20,000 feet, 30,000 feet, what does this really do? This is going to kill Pennsylvania jobs. This is going to kill our economy. This is a slap in the face for the hardworking Pennsylvanians involved in this sector and coal power in the mines, family-sustaining, union jobs.

So before you vote today, and I am sure we will hear plenty of more speakers on both sides of the aisle, but before you vote today, ask yourself, do you support the radical environmentalists intent on destroying our economy? Or do you support your constituents and the family-sustaining, union jobs that this will kill? A "no" vote turns your back on those union and family-sustaining jobs. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, today I rise in opposition to Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1. Before I get started on my previously prepared remarks, I have two things I would like to say. Please stop calling us green radicals. We are not radical. We simply want to have a planet to live on--our children, grandchildren, progeny to have a planet to live on--and we are not doing a darn thing about it right now to ensure that that happens. That is not radical. It is not radical to want clean air. It is not radical to want clean water. Please stop, it is offensive. I would also like to say that I find it wholly offensive that we want to compare ourselves to what China or Russia is

doing. Pennsylvania should not concern itself with them. We should concern ourselves with being an energy leader. Finding innovative ways to address the climate and energy crises with which we face. Russia and China are not fair and free democracies which listen to or follow the will of their people; we are. With that, this resolution is a transparent effort to undermine a popular proposal supported by a majority of Pennsylvanians.

According to a Yale study, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI, as we are all talking about, is a bill that regulates carbon emissions, which we all know, is supported by 75 percent of Pennsylvanians and at least 70 percent of people in every county. So that is not just down in the southeast where I have an overwhelming number of constituents who are concerned about the environment, those are constituents who you serve who support this resolution and joining RGGI. This resolution is being pushed through so that the legislature can continue to do nothing to regulate the continued release of dangerous levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We heard Senator Boscola say we cannot do nothing. It is not enough to not do anything and if this is the only thing we have then we are voting to make sure that we join RGGI. Preventing Pennsylvania from joining RGGI will set back our efforts to address climate change by years while providing absolutely no long-term or short-term benefits to the citizens of our Commonwealth. In fact, it will actively cause each and every one of us harm, and it will deteriorate our public health.

Additionally, there has been a deliberate misinformation campaign against joining RGGI, and we have heard it today by actors who deny or refuse the reality of climate change. This willful ignorance and spread of misinformation and disinformation serves no good purpose. Rather, the narrative sustains and protects the coal, oil, and gas industries from accountability. Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1 is part of a broad conservative agenda to keep the fossil fuel industry around for longer than it deserves. Coal, oil, and gas are finite resources. All of these plants are closing sooner rather than later, one way or another. So the question is, does it end with us having a planet capable of supporting life or will we, too, fade away? We need to act now and transition our energy consumption to something that will last in the long term. The best thing we can do is to prepare for a greener, cleaner, energy infrastructure that will last, and we need to act now in ways that bring communities and industries to the table to ensure that the driving voice in their community is theirs, and how it changes is theirs, instead of waiting until the jobs are gone and people are stranded with nothing and they are struggling. Political games to protect the fossil fuel industry are going to destroy our environment and our futures. At its core, it hurts the lives and health of every Pennsylvanian in the long term. Moving in this direction hurts all of us long term, locks us out of the progress our neighboring States are making towards addressing climate change.

I am supporting Pennsylvania joining RGGI because my constituents support joining RGGI as a first step towards a greener and more sustainable future: A future that is full of family-sustaining jobs. So, yes, when I am making this vote I am thinking about jobs, thank you. From 2017 to 2019, our Commonwealth economy added over 8,000 new clean energy jobs and was projected to add over 5,000 more in 2021. In fact, from 2017 to 2019, job growth in the clean energy space outpaced fossil fuels in Pennsylvania 9.6 percent to 3 percent and grew nearly 5 times

the rate of the overall economy at 9.6 percent to 2 percent. That is all without any kind of tax incentives, tax breaks, or any hand-out from us at the State level. So, if we act and make these investments now, we can build back better and faster than without an investment in renewable energies because, to be honest, without RGGI and renewable energies, we lose millions of jobs in the future in long-term growth. We lose millions of dollars in economic activity in the long term here in Pennsylvania. To be honest, millions of dollars will be spent on what could have been avoidable healthcare costs because nobody is addressing the overarching theme of the detriment of public health that the oil and gas industry plays in Pennsylvania and that RGGI will help us address those issues. So, yes, I stand here in opposition to Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1 and will continue to do so and continue to oppose any other attempt that hurts our public health and the environment. I believe that all of my colleagues, no matter their party affiliations, should do the same because your constituents believe in the same. It is what is right for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians have said as such.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative entry by Governor Wolf is absolutely a terrible idea and the timing could not be worse. First off, the people who will suffer are the common folks in Pennsylvania: The hard-working men and women around the State here, especially low to middle income. It is going to jack up prices on every commodity across the State, in addition to the already skyrocketing energy prices. So it is going to hurt families, the families who we represent and serve. It is going to make it almost impossible this winter on families with tight incomes to make ends meet, and in the end they are going to be paying for everything because of the energy costs spiking.

Additionally, it would be more evidence that Pennsylvania is indeed closed for business. Investors are going elsewhere; it is too hard to work here and too hard to invest. It is going to drive our dwindling working population out of the State due to the lack of opportunities, and it is going to make it even more expensive to live in Pennsylvania as it goes. Additionally, the unilateral actions by the Governor is disconcerting. We would be the only State in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative where the legislative body did not give its consent. So where are the checks and balances in our constitutional republic? Where is the advise and consent?

Furthermore, it is a great national security issue. We had the Lithuanian ambassador here today. I worked for many years in support of the NATO mission over there with our NATO allies in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania coming out of the Soviet system. They were 100 percent reliant upon Russian oil and gas. Obviously that is a problem, as we saw and demonstrated in Ukraine several winters ago. The former Lithuanian Minister of Defense was keen on investing and buying Pennsylvania LNG, liquefied natural gas, and we are willing to even pay a little bit more to get it over there because of their appreciation for all that Pennsylvania has done as a partner State since 1994 for Lithuania. The problem, of course, is the difficulty of us getting it there. The pipelines are limited and the terminals are even fewer. Lithuanians did invest in the LNG terminal. They have a two-year supply offshore now, off of Klaipeda in Lithua-

nia, and sadly, it is mostly gas imported from Norway and they would rather invest in Pennsylvania. So we have a long way to go.

From a national security perspective as well, we have to keep in mind that many RGGI States such as New Hampshire and Massachusetts blocked an initiative from Pennsylvania to build a pipeline to the northeast to provide our States up in New England with natural gas produced in America. They blocked the pipeline, and in 2018 we had a severe winter, a cold winter, and guess what? They could not keep up with the supply and demands on energy, and ships from Russia were brought into Boston Harbor to provide energy that year to our New England brothers and sisters. Imagine the ridiculous nature of bringing a ship from 4,500 miles away from Russia, Siberia, Yamal Peninsula, to provide energy needs for New England. The costs on the environment of those ships moving the energy to the New England States far outweighed any benefit from an environmental perspective.

So, in the end, instead of Pennsylvania enjoying the benefits of the blessing it has from God with great resources here, the wealth is being shifted to Russia. Vladimir Putin's Russia is a one-commodity energy country. It is about \$70 billion a year on oil and gas and, obviously, that diminishes our capability within NATO and reduces the security of our own NATO allies in the Baltic nations, as well as in Eastern and Central Europe. In the end, Pennsylvania goes to great lengths for clean energy and environmental protection. We are better off if it is produced here where the people of Pennsylvania can enjoy the benefits and fruits of the energy produced locally in our State rather than American dollars being sent to Russia to make up for the shortfalls that we have created on our own.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Yudichak.

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, I am going to submit the balance of my remarks for the record, but I do want to make a few points.

We hear often in this debate that Pennsylvania has made no progress--that the United States has made no progress--to reduce carbon emissions to address climate change. Since 2005, CO2 emissions have declined in the United States by 758 million metric tons, more than any country in the world and nearly matching the entire CO2 reductions for the European Union. The extraordinary environmental progress--fueled in large part by cleaner-burning, Pennsylvania natural gas--should be celebrated. Instead, it is dismissed by extremists who demand zero carbon without a scientific or reasonable economic plan in how to get there.

RGGI is not a reasonable scientific plan on how to reduce CO2 emissions in Pennsylvania or in the United States. RGGI, for Pennsylvania, a net exporter of energy, is a capitulation. It is a capitulation. It is ceding the Pennsylvania economy to other States, two of which, New York and New Jersey, refused to do business with Pennsylvania. We just lost 12,000 union jobs--12,000 construction and building trade jobs--in northeastern Pennsylvania because of radical energy policies, like RGGI, that have shut down pipeline projects across Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's clean-burning fuel, energy efficiencies, smarter electric grid, and countless technological advances in the energy industry have blessed Pennsylvania with an energy portfolio that includes natural resources, nuclear power, and renewable energy sources.

Pennsylvania's energy portfolio is the envy of other States and most nations around the world. Pennsylvania's diverse energy industry represents billions of dollars in private investment and tens of thousands of jobs.

In 2004, I voted for Act 213, Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act; and in 2008, I voted for Act 70, the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act. Both legislative acts aggressively advanced alternative energy, which now makes up 18 percent of our energy market here in Pennsylvania, and they focused the legislature on addressing the impacts of climate change in a responsible and sustainable way. We made this environmental progress together as a legislative and executive branch, as Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. RGGI walks away from that environmental progress and, worst of all, it walks away from the democratic, inclusive, and transparent process Pennsylvania citizens demand of their State government.

Despite these environmental legislative achievements, scientific facts, and salient economic realities of our energy-based economy, environmental extremists continue to advance radical energy policies, like RGGI, that will result in higher energy bills for every Pennsylvania consumer, more manufacturing jobs going to China, and the loss of thousands of jobs for Pennsylvania building trade unions. I rise in support of the measure and I rise to encourage my colleagues to reject RGGI.

Thank you, Mr. President. I will submit the balance of my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

*(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator YUDICHAK:)*

Mr. President, I rise to join my Senate colleagues in opposition to the unconstitutional, unilateral actions pursued by the executive branch without consent of the legislature or the citizens of PA that will impose the largest energy tax ever levied on the taxpayers of PA. The administration's myopic quest to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is bad for our environment, our economy, union trade workers, and downright awful for low-income PA families. The U.S. Census Bureau issued a report noting nearly a quarter of all Americans will have to forego necessities like medicine and food to pay their energy bills over the next 12 months. Why are low- to middle-income families being punished with higher utility bills? Because environmental extremists are advancing a radical energy agenda and have called for the irrational retreat from natural gas as a clean-burning, transitional fuel to a lower carbon emissions economy. RGGI is the keystone of a radical energy agenda that seeks to destroy PA's robust and diverse energy industry. RGGI will result in no environmental progress, no new jobs, and higher energy costs for every consumer of electricity in PA. Every homeowner, business, hospital, and school across PA will pay a high price for the radical energy agenda embodied by RGGI.

Economists predict heating bills this winter will be 54 percent higher than last year. That means PA families struggling through a public health pandemic and trying to navigate a challenging economy are going to pay, on average, \$800 to \$1,000 per month to heat their homes. Under RGGI, energy bills could soar past \$2,000 per month. The radical energy agenda is not cheap, folks. RGGI will take more hard-earned money out of the wallets of PA taxpayers and hand over those PA tax dollars and thousands of PA energy jobs to RGGI States like New York and New Jersey; and do not forget, RGGI puts our economic future in the hands of two States, like New York and New Jersey, that outright refuse to allow PA to build natural gas pipelines through their States and that have gleefully embraced environmental extremists and their radical energy agenda. Think about the real-world consequences of such a radical and abrupt change to our economy:

millions of PA families will be forced to pay more to heat their homes; thousands of PA union workers will be forced into unemployment; and thousands of PA businesses will close their doors because of rising energy costs. It is not a hypothetical economic portrait; it is happening in California and in the European Union right now. As Europe rapidly divorced its economy from natural gas, utility costs have tripled, energy blackouts are more common, and factories have been forced to shut down. Is this the RGGI future we want for PA?

Despite our reliance on fossil fuels, the U.S., with PA leading the way, is a world leader in reducing CO2 emissions. Since 2005, CO2 emissions have declined in the U.S. by 758 million metric tons, more than any country in the world and nearly matching the entire CO2 reductions for the entire European Union. The extraordinary environmental progress, fueled in large part by cleaner burning natural gas, should be celebrated. Instead, it is dismissed by extremists who demand zero carbon without a scientific or reasonable economic plan on how to get there. Cleaner burning fuel, energy efficiencies, a smarter electric grid, and countless technological advances in the energy industry have blessed PA with an energy portfolio that includes natural resources, nuclear power, and renewable energy sources. PA's energy portfolio is the envy of other States and most nations of the world. PA's diverse energy industry represents billions of dollars in private investments and tens of thousands of jobs.

In 2004, I voted for Act 213, PA's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act; and in 2008, I voted for Act 70, the PA Climate Change Act. Both legislative acts have aggressively advanced alternative energy, which now makes up 18 percent of our energy market and focused the legislature on addressing the impacts of climate change in a responsible and sustainable way. We made this environmental progress together as a legislative and executive branch, as Republicans and Democrats. RGGI walks away from that environmental progress; and worst of all, it walks away from the democratic, inclusive, and transparent process PA citizens demand of their State government. Despite these environmental legislative achievements, scientific facts, and salient economic realities of our energy-based economy, environmental extremists continue to advance radical energy policies like RGGI that will result in higher energy bills for consumers, more manufacturing jobs going to China, and the loss of thousands of jobs for the PA building trade unions.

Over the past 3 years, four projects related to natural gas have been shut down in PA by the radical energy agenda and the threat of RGGI. These four canceled projects represent the direct economic loss to PA of over \$4 billion, the loss of millions of work hours for the PA building trade unions, and the loss of over 25,000 PA jobs. Whether it is championing policies, like RGGI, or it is filing a series of never-ending frivolous lawsuits, radical environmentalists are shutting down clean energy projects in PA, ripping jobs away from the PA building trade unions, and handing over PA's economic future to neighboring States that do not produce energy anywhere near the levels of PA. If you are beating the competition, as PA is beating the world in energy production, you do not quit the game. RGGI represents an economic white flag that will put PA businesses and PA trade unions out of business.

Pennsylvanians deserve an honest debate on our energy agenda—one that recognizes the progress we have made in improving our environment, that strives to keep energy affordable for consumers, and that recognizes that PA's energy industry is the foundational component of an economy that can lift the personal fortunes of every Pennsylvanian and responsibly address the issues of climate change. I urge my Senate colleagues to turn back the unconstitutional overreach by the administration and reject this unilateral executive action that will put the PA economy and PA consumers at the mercy of the RGGI States.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I will be brief as my colleagues did a tremendous job describing the lay of the land here and what we are dealing with as we head into this vote. Pennsylvania has been held hostage by the extraction industry for decades, and that is a partisan-enabled problem. Pennsylvanians want better regulations for industry. Pennsylvanians want clean drinking water. Pennsylvanians deserve that. Pennsylvanians



everywhere in this 67-county-wide State deserve to have a livelihood, good health, and economic security--not one or the other, or part of one; all of it. Right now, that is not the reality. We talk about the energy industry, and I have heard very few people in this Chamber talk about the lack of worker protections for non-labor union workers in the industry who haul toxic, radioactive waste without any safety protections. People who are living next to landfills filled with waste from the gas and oil industry--that is both conventional and unconventional--from how many frac pads and 90-some thousand miles of pipeline here in the Commonwealth--three times around the Earth, that is the distance, a little bit more.

This is not about being anti-pipeline, being a radical tree hugger, this is about protecting public health, providing economic sustainability, and getting Pennsylvania on a pathway forward that does not exploit citizens over corporate profit. I have lived in this State my entire life and, shamefully, was nowhere near aware of how the State that I call home has been a corporate State long before I arrived here, before I was born. But since becoming a State Senator, I am tremendously grateful for all of the residents who have had to take time to learn about all of the ways they are being exploited because they do not have drinking water or their land was contaminated and they no longer can farm. This is not an either/or. Those people deserve good, family-sustaining wages and economic security. There is a way forward where there is not just a compromise, but there is a path where everyone in this Commonwealth, not just corporations in the gas and oil industry, have the security of succeeding financially.

Instead, what is happening today--and I am speaking to the public for the public's awareness--is an effort to frame the 2022 election cycle to say this person does not stand for jobs, to say that this person is a job killer, or whatever radical narrative that is going to be spewed all over mailers bought and paid for by the gas and oil industry and its supporters. That is what today is about. It is a bullying tactic. It is crap. Pennsylvanians deserve better. Pennsylvania should turn on PCN right now and listen to us debate, discuss, and plan a policy that allows for all workers to have sustainability and job security; for all families to have access to healthcare; for all workers and impacted residents to have clean air, water, and not live next to radioactive wastes; not have water buffaloes to give them water; not have to deal with the health impacts and cancer clusters. So, sure, whatever happens today on this resolution, none of that changes. No plan is up for a vote today that helps Pennsylvanians in that perspective, and that is everywhere.

Not one of our districts are exempt from this. Pennsylvania needs a transition plan, and the longer we debate RGGI, no RGGI, solar panels, whatever we are debating, we can--this body, this General Assembly, if it should so choose to work together, and it would be a historic moment--can ensure a true, just transition by maintaining standards of union jobs across sectors, building a bridge of wage support and healthcare security for everyone who needs it, guaranteeing that energy sector workers receive that training and access to other union jobs or whatever they want to do, and securing pensions for all workers. These are all achievable things, and other States are doing it. Other States are planning this transition, and, unfortunately, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is not one of those States.

So I will remember this day as the beginning of trying to frame who takes power in 2022, not because anybody in here is fighting--we are not working together--that we have to fight this battle. The battle that we should be fighting is for the people who we represent all across our districts, not just one group of people, not just one sector of work. That is what we have to do to work together, work with policy experts, work with those who can put us on a plan forward, and, unfortunately, that is not what is happening here today. If we continue to put corporate profits over the health, well-being, and livelihoods of Pennsylvanians, this State will continue to suffer. Not just economically. Every constituent, every person, every family we know. This climate change--whether it is flooding, whether it is health impacts--is real, and if there is not a tangible solution that actually addresses this in a timely manner, we have a very small window of opportunity here to hustle hard and get it done. Today does not look like the day that it is going to start.

So I hope when we come back in November there is a new change of mind, a new perspective, and critical thinking done on how this does not have to be partisan, does not have to be a failed effort because I will say that Pennsylvanians deserve better than this, they really do. I am sorry to each and every one who has had to struggle in this fold, who has had to lose family members from cancer or from having breathing issues, people who do not have drinking water in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because billionaire corporations are too darn greedy to replace their contaminated water supply--which, may I add, hooking people up to public water is actually a lot of jobs, and sewer for that matter. So I hope that is on the table when we come back because people cannot keep drinking out of water buffaloes and struggling to get by to protect their land, resources, and livelihoods when those who are elected to serve them do not have a plan on the table that truly helps them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, the 1970s is calling and they want their economy back. Indeed, the economic misery of the 1970s is back. It is right here; it is right now. Inflation, hyperinflation, stagflation, supply chain collapses, and an energy crisis are knocking at the door. The misery index is climbing, and it is knocking on the door. These economic challenges are knocking on the door of every household in this Commonwealth and across this nation. But today, Mr. President, we have an opportunity, with this resolution, to recognize these economic challenges. Today, Mr. President, we have the opportunity to stand and say "yes" to thousands of working families in our energy sector who rely on the production of electricity for their family-sustaining wages. Today we have the opportunity to stand and say "yes" to thousands of school students across this Commonwealth who rely on the payment of property taxes from power plants to support their educational opportunities. Today, Mr. President, we have the opportunity to stand and say "yes" to every consumer of electricity in this Commonwealth who is afraid of being able to make ends meet and pay their bills.

Mr. President, today we have an opportunity to stand, and by saying "yes" to this resolution, implore our Governor to stop this unilateral effort to illegally enter our Commonwealth into a multi-State scheme known as RGGI. The end result is an unconstitutional and illegal carbon tax that will be paid by every elec-

tricity consumer in this Commonwealth. Mr. President, it is time for the Governor to press the pause button on this unilateral effort. But you do not have to take my word for it, Mr. President, let us hear what the Central Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council has to say about RGGI. "If Pennsylvania is to join RGGI, or otherwise impose carbon taxes on fossil fuel generation, this is a decision that should be left to the legislative branch, which is far better equipped to balance the actual risks against the perceived benefits of such a policy." Tom Melcher with the Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council, "RGGI will lead to the premature termination of every coal and many natural gas plants in the Commonwealth. And RGGI will preclude the construction of new natural gas plants and, instead, effectively subsidize current coal and natural gas plants in non-RGGI States, such as Ohio and West Virginia." How about Rick Bloomingdale, the president of the AFL-CIO, what does he have to say about RGGI? "...blue collar families are likely to be forced to bear the brunt of RGGI risks without benefitting from any rewards." What about the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, John Dougherty, what does he have to say about RGGI? (*Reading:*)

"RGGI will eliminate thousands of current and future jobs, and the alleged job creation promised by DEP will largely be low-paying, non-union jobs. It will trigger significant rate hikes for Pennsylvania ratepayers, which will be particularly harmful to low-income communities and senior citizens living on fixed incomes."

How about the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Mike Welch, what does he have to say about it? (*Reading:*)

"RGGI would not accomplish any environmental goals. It would merely shift electricity production to neighboring States who are not part of this state-by-state pact. We feel the Commonwealth would be making a grave mistake by enrolling in RGGI because of the lack of environmental initiatives set forth in the compact, with little concern for the economic devastation that would reverberate throughout the region."

Then finally, Mr. President, just last week, there were a couple of quotes in the *Indiana Gazette*, my hometown newspaper, that I thought would be worthy of sharing. (*Reading:*)

"I understand the aims of RGGI, and the goals. I have real concerns about the impact it will have on consumer prices, hurting families at a time when many are struggling really to put food on the table. I am really concerned about the impact on jobs in the energy sector. I do not want to displace workers from their jobs. I'm really concerned about the process."

Those are not my words, Mr. President, those are the words of Attorney General Josh Shapiro, the presumptive Democrat nominee for Governor. Let me read that last sentence one more time: "I'm really concerned about the process." It is good to hear because he will be part of the process, as the Attorney General will have to choose whether or not to sign this regulation as to its legality and constitutionality. Mr. President, this is not legal, this is not constitutional. It is a tax. It is a unilateral tax, pure and simple.

Now, Mr. President, we have heard many arguments for RGGI. Two I feel compelled to dispel. First is the need to address climate change and how RGGI will positively impact that effort. As we heard the gentleman from Lycoming County and the gentleman from Lancaster County, I will tell you the facts,

because facts matter. The facts are that carbon reductions from this effort are minuscule. The facts are much of the carbon emissions will occur in West Virginia and Ohio as they increase the production of electricity. That is the fact, and already, Mr. President, the giant sucking sound that we are hearing are thousands of working families' jobs, millions of tax dollars, and hundreds of millions of capital investment going across State lines; and a 1,000-megawatt natural gas plant in Washington County cancelled. In the meantime, \$400 million is being invested in West Virginia in their coal-fired power plants to run until 2040, \$400 million. An 1,800-megawatt natural gas plant is being built in the State of Ohio, carbon-emitting electricity that we will consume, and our working families will pay the price for it. Those are the facts, Mr. President, and they are stubborn facts.

Secondly, Mr. President, what I find offensive about some of this debate is this notion that my power plants that I represent are going to close anyway. Someday they will close; when, I do not know--5, 6, 7 years from now; they will. But let me tell you something, Mr. President, for 50 years the coal-fired power plants in my district have produced electricity. You know what I have watched them do? I have watched them evolve. When they were built, the coal came out of the ground, it was dumped on the ground, shoved in a boiler, and burned; it was that simple. What have they done over time? Mr. President, over time they built rail lines so they could reduce emissions from truck traffic to bring the coal in by rail. They put scrubbers, hundreds of millions of dollars in scrubbers, on their power plants so they can comply with environmental regulations. They have coal-fired with natural gas, they have reduced emissions. My belief is, Mr. President, that these power plants could continue to evolve, but they can only evolve with a transition. RGGI is not a transition, Mr. President, RGGI is a cliff. It serves to push these power plants off a cliff. It does not give them the opportunity to evolve, to perhaps convert to natural gas, explore carbon capture sequestration, be an area for battery storage. Mr. President, one thing that we have in our area that the rest of you should be very happy you do not have are transmission lines. We have the access to the power grid. So, unless you want to get ready to have power lines built through your communities because you do not want mine anymore, you might want to think twice about whether or not you want to shove my power plants and the hardworking families that work there off a cliff.

Mr. President, this is a day that I will remember on the floor, too, because when we take the "yeas" and "nays," we will find out who in this Chamber stands for working families. We will find out who in this Chamber stands for the education of the students in the communities that I represent. We will find out who stands for the electricity consumer in this Commonwealth. You know, Mr. President, it was just a month ago that we had the debate over extending the emergency disaster resolution because of the flooding. It was the first time we exercised our constitutional powers since May. What we had, thanks to the gentleman from Fayette County and his good work with emergency management agencies, we extended that emergency declaration at the proper time, in the proper way, and we were successful. There was a point in that debate that I remember well, because I thought it might come back up, where one of our colleagues quoted, and if it was the reverse and any of your districts were impacted, I would support your request for ensuring your constituents also got every resource they need to help them recover in

a way that makes them whole. RGGI does not make my people whole, Mr. President. RGGI pushes them off a cliff. So if you want your voice and your words to match your vote, vote "yes" for this resolution, vote "yes" for working families in this Commonwealth, and send the Governor a message that now is not the time to unilaterally impose such a carbon tax.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Brooks has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Argall, Senator Baker, Senator Corman, Senator Laughlin, Senator Martin, Senator Regan, and Senator Bartolotta.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Kim Ward requests legislative leaves for Senator Argall, Senator Baker, Senator Corman, Senator Laughlin, Senator Martin, Senator Regan, and Senator Bartolotta.

Without objection, those leaves will be granted.

And the question recurring,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-32

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Tomlinson
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Langerholc	Robinson	Yaw
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	Yudichak

NAY-18

Boscola	Flynn	Muth	Schwank
Cappelletti	Haywood	Sabatina	Street
Collett	Hughes	Santarsiero	Tartaglione
Comitta	Kane	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Kearney		

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said resolution to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Regan has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1, SB 113 and SB 137 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 275 (Pr. No. 1163) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preemptions, providing for restrictions on utility services prohibited.

Considered the third time and agreed to,  
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-35

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Flynn	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Kane	Robinson	Yaw
Browne	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-15

Cappelletti	Fontana	Muth	Street
Collett	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Saval	

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

## BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 327** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 349 (Pr. No. 352)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to pass Senate Bill No. 349 and lift a burden from the sector that most Pennsylvanians turn to for jobs. I am talking about small businesses. This legislation would bring Pennsylvania's tax law more in line with the Federal Internal Revenue Code, and it will encourage investment in new equipment by small businesses. As a result of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the IRS tax limit for annual Section 179 expense deductions when equipment is purchased was raised to \$1 million annually with future inflation adjustments. Here in Pennsylvania, under our State Tax Code, Pennsylvania C corporations, which are traditionally the bigger businesses, are already allowed that same limit of \$1 million for State tax purposes as a deduction. Meanwhile, when small businesses, which create 65 percent of new jobs in Pennsylvania, invest in assets like equipment, they are limited to a mere \$25,000 annual depreciation at our State level. Mr. President, it is time to bring fairness and parity to our State Tax Code. Even more important, it is time to encourage businesses to buy equipment and to invest in Pennsylvania, which promotes job growth and economic recovery. Mr. President, it is time to bring back Pennsylvania. Let us allow our small businesses to grow and prosper on a competitive and level playing field. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important, job-creating legislation. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, we had intended to offer an amendment on the matter, but after conversations with the Majority Leader's office and my counterpart, Senator Browne's office, we are going to hold the offering of the amendment. We believe there may be an opportunity to reach some common ground on the substance, and hopefully when we come back in November, we will be able to achieve that common ground.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street.

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to point out that, as I see it, most individuals do not have a million dollars of income

to waive. This bill would create not a business deduction, but a personal income tax deduction of up to \$1,050,000. The average working person does not need to deduct \$1 million from their income taxes because the average working Pennsylvanian does not make a million dollars a year. I think we need to be genuine about what we are doing. If we want to give tax cuts to millionaires--because the only way you can take advantage of a million-dollar deduction is if you are a millionaire--then we should just say we are doing that, but we should not be disingenuous and talk about how we are helping ordinary folks when what we are talking about is a personal income tax deduction of \$1 million. Sir, I think we have given enough tax breaks to millionaires, and so I urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I just want to clarify for the Members. What we are talking about today is when a small business is taxed at the same rate as a personal income tax return. When that business buys equipment--you have to buy something, make an investment to grow your business, in order to get this deduction. What we are talking about is when you buy a piece of equipment, over time, that is depreciated. We are saying it can be depreciated much more quickly and, quite frankly, in many cases, if you buy a machine or make some other investment like that--buy some other physical asset--if it is less than \$1 million, then you get the deduction in year one as opposed to spreading it out over many years, which is already allowed in our State Tax Code. This is not for somebody who just has personal income to make a deduction. This is for somebody who is running a business and buying equipment for that business--whether it is a farm, whether it is a small manufacturer--they have to buy something in order to take advantage of this quicker depreciation of that asset. That is what we are talking about today, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street.

Senator STREET. Mr. President, with all due respect to my colleagues, the fact of the matter is the legislation creates a personal income tax deduction of over \$1 million. Businesses can already take deductions for expenses and equipment, but this is creating a personal, not a business--it says in the language of the bill--a personal income tax deduction of \$1,050,000. Sir, if folks want to give people who have over \$1 million in income another tax break, they should do that. But let us be honest about what we are doing. Like I said, as I see, regular Pennsylvanians do not make \$1 million, so they cannot take advantage of a million-dollar personal deduction. Again, the language in the bill is personal income tax deduction, which means you have to have personal income of over \$1 million to take advantage of it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, two things. I rise and ask for a negative vote on this measure as well. Certainly we know, or at least the Department of Revenue has indicated, that they believe that this would have a significant negative impact on the revenue of this Commonwealth and, for those reasons, oppose it. More importantly, I think that this is a measure, given that it impacts our revenue stream, something that is more appropriate to be discussed, debated, and spoken about during our budgetary

process. I think we are 6 months premature in that regard, and maybe that is something we can revisit at that point in time. At this moment in time, I ask for a negative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-31

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Tomlinson
Baker	Flynn	Mensch	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Hutchinson	Regan	Yaw
Browne	Langerholc	Robinson	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Scavello	

NAY-19

Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Street
Cappelletti	Haywood	Sabatina	Tartaglione
Collett	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Schwank	

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

**BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator KIM WARD, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following bill:

**SB 420 (Pr. No. 1110) (Rereported) (Concurrence)**

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in district attorney, assistants and detectives, further providing for district attorney, qualifications, eligibility and compensation.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1**

**SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

**SB 420 (Pr. No. 1110)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in district attorney, assistants and detectives, further providing for district attorney, qualifications, eligibility and compensation.

On the question,  
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 420?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 420.

On the question,  
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator K. WARD and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Flynn	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Brewster	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Haywood	Regan	Ward, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Costa	Laughlin		

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR  
REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

Senator AUMENT, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following nominations made by His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

**JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Sabrina Korbel, Esquire, 408 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh 15237, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Donald R. Walko, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

**JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
JUNIATA AND PERRY COUNTIES**

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Andrew Bender, Esquire, 530 Jacobs Road, Elliottsburg 17024, Perry County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Juniata and Perry Counties, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Kathy A. Morrow, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Terrence Hughes, Sr., 524 Elford Road, Fairless Hills 19030, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Bucks, Magisterial District 07-1-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Robert Wagner, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Edward Wilson, 914 Reed Street, Erie 16503, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Erie, Magisterial District 06-1-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Paul Urbaniak, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Patrick Krouse, 431 Timber Circle, Wayne 19087, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Montgomery, Magisterial District 38-1-09, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable William Maruszczak, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Edward Tarantelli, 19 Pine Street, Ashland 17921, Schuylkill County, Twenty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Schuylkill, Magisterial District 21-2-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Christina Hale, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kelly Tua Hammers, 1413 Main Street, Latrobe 15650, Westmoreland County, Thirty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Westmoreland, Magisterial District 10-3-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Mark Bilik, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

**NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE**

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I request that the nominations just read by the Clerk be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nominations will be laid on the table.

**EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Senator AUMENT,  
That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of considering nominations made by the Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

**NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Terrence Hughes, Sr., 524 Elford Road, Fairless Hills 19030, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of

Bucks, Magisterial District 07-1-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Robert Wagner, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Edward Wilson, 914 Reed Street, Erie 16503, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Erie, Magisterial District 06-1-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Paul Urbaniak, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Patrick Krouse, 431 Timber Circle, Wayne 19087, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Montgomery, Magisterial District 38-1-09, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable William Maruszczak, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Edward Tarantelli, 19 Pine Street, Ashland 17921, Schuylkill County, Twenty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Schuylkill, Magisterial District 21-2-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Christina Hale, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kelly Tua Hammers, 1413 Main Street, Latrobe 15650, Westmoreland County, Thirty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Westmoreland, Magisterial District 10-3-08, to serve until

the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Mark Bilik, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

On the question,  
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator AUMENT and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Flynn	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Brewster	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Haywood	Regan	Ward, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Costa	Laughlin		

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

**NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Sabrina Korbil, Esquire, 408 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh 15237, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Donald R. Walko, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
JUNIATA AND PERRY COUNTIES

October 15, 2021

To the Honorable, the Senate  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Andrew Bender, Esquire, 530 Jacobs Road, Elliptsburg 17024, Perry County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Juniata and Perry Counties, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Kathy A. Morrow, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

On the question,  
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator AUMENT and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Flynn	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Brewster	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Haywood	Regan	Ward, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Costa	Laughlin		

NAY-0

A constitutional two-thirds majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.  
Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES**

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.  
The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED  
THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 416, SB 457, SB 696, SB 703, SB 704, SB 775, SB 846, SB 849, SB 862 and HB 1082** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 225, SB 284 and SB 320** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 347 (Pr. No. 350)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income.

Considered the second time and agreed to,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 448, SB 507, SB 519, SB 525, SB 562, SB 565, SB 573, SB 597, SB 617 and SB 667** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 737 (Pr. No. 841)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, in repeals, further providing for general repeal.

Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 745 (Pr. No. 862)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

Considered the second time and agreed to,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 815 and SB 832** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED

**SB 913 (Pr. No. 1144)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for conditions of probation and for modification or revocation of order of probation.



Considered the second time and agreed to,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator K. WARD, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND RECOMMITTED**

**SB 915 (Pr. No. 1180)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2021-2022; itemizing public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects, transportation assistance, redevelopment assistance projects, flood control projects and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects leased or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies; authorizing the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and making appropriations.

Considered the second time and agreed to,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator K. WARD, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED**

**HB 930 (Pr. No. 2240)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in kidnapping, further providing for missing children; and, in DNA data and testing, further providing for policy, for definitions and for State DNA Data Base, providing for collection of DNA in investigations of high-risk missing persons and missing children, for collection of DNA in investigations of missing persons and for collection of DNA in investigations of unidentified decedents and further providing for DNA data base exchange.

Considered the second time and agreed to,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

Upon motion of Senator K. WARD, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**BILL LAID ON THE TABLE**

**HB 951 (Pr. No. 1335)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time, further providing for infancy, insanity or imprisonment; in matters affecting government units, further providing for exceptions to sovereign immunity

and for exceptions to governmental immunity; waiving sovereign immunity and governmental immunity; and making a related repeal.

Upon motion of Senator K. WARD, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

**HB 951 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 951, Printer's No. 1335, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 1332** and **HB 1500** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL, from the Committee on Communications and Technology, reported the following bill:

**SB 482 (Pr. No. 1185) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in boards and offices, providing for information technology; establishing the Office of Information Technology and the Information Technology Fund; providing for administrative and procurement procedures and for the Joint Cybersecurity Oversight Committee; imposing duties on the Office of Information Technology; providing for administration of Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network and imposing penalties.

**BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

**SB 470, SB 474, SB 482, SB 504, SB 676, SB 851, SB 881, SB 922, SB 924, HB 636, HB 764, HB 1107, HB 1120, HB 1121, HB 1304, HB 1312** and **HB 1588**.

And said bills having been considered for the first time,  
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY**

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021

1:00 P.M.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Natl. Counter  
Drug Training

	(roundtable discussion with female veterans)	Center Clsm. Building 8-63 Ft. Indiantown Gap, Annville
<u>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021</u>		
12:00 P.M.	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 527; House Bills No. 1660 and 1642; and a letter to IRRC)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
12:30 P.M.	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bill No. 471; and House Bill No. 220)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 931, 932, 933, 934, 935 and 937)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 565; and certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
<u>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021</u>		
10:00 A.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (public hearing on improving Pennsylvania's innovation economy - invent Penn State)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 784, 807 and 812)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
10:45 A.M.	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bill No. 938)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
11:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 861 and 927; and House Bills No. 491, 995 and 1421)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
11:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider House Bill No. 1255)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
12:00 P.M.	AGING AND YOUTH (to consider House Bills No. 291, 1260 and 1650)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
12:45 P.M.	GAME AND FISHERIES (to consider Senate Bill No. 337)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
<u>WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021</u>		
9:00 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (S) and CONSUMER AFFAIRS (H) (joint public hearing on rural broadband)	Room 140 Main Capitol
9:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 301 and 776; and House Bill No. 598)	Room 461 Main Capitol

9:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing to receive information on congressional maps recommended by members of the public)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
9:30 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bill No. 450)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider House Bills No. 1819, 1829 and 1837)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

**PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Stefano has submitted remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

*(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Fayette, Senator STEFANO:)*

Mr. President, over the past year and a half, there has been much debate in this Senate Chamber about the roles of the executive and legislative branches in handling emergency declarations. In May, Pennsylvania voters became the first in the nation to curb their governor's emergency powers, approving constitutional amendments that restored some balance between the two branches. Since winning approval from the voters, the legislature has exercised its authority to both extend and end emergency declarations, including those declarations for COVID-19 and the opioid epidemic.

I want to underscore that the General Assembly does not decide whether or not to renew the emergency declarations in a vacuum. It has worked with the administration to pass legislation that was signed into law that extended many of the waivers that the administration provided during the pandemic. It has been the legislative branch's goal to communicate often and act timely. For example, Tropical Storm Ida impacted Pennsylvania on Wednesday, August 31, bringing historic rainfall to Pennsylvania and causing record flooding in many communities. In response, Governor Tom Wolf exercised his power to sign an emergency declaration in anticipation of the storm. As prescribed under the Constitution, the emergency declaration could last for 21 days. The Emergency Management Council, on which I sit as chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, unanimously affirmed the emergency declaration. As we approached the emergency declaration's September 21 expiration date, a discussion occurred between the administration and legislative leaders from both Chambers. At that time, PEMA Director Randy Padfield made the case for an extension of the declaration as recovery efforts were still ongoing. As such, House Resolution No. 139 was introduced. The resolution extended the emergency declaration for an additional 36 days, until October 27. PEMA Director Randy Padfield and the administration were comfortable with that timeframe, particularly knowing that we could extend the declaration again if more time was needed. The House of Representatives unanimously adopted the resolution on September 21. That same day, the Senate took up the resolution for deliberation, during which several Senators objected, calling for a longer extension. Ultimately, a majority of Senators understood that the legislature possesses the authority to extend a declaration past the current end date, and the Senate adopted the resolution in its original form.

As the chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, I am pleased to report that on October 18, the administration met with staff from the four legislative Caucuses. During this meeting, participants received an update from PEMA Director Randy Padfield and were notified that a further extension was not needed. I am not waiting for those Members who chose to politicize this emergency and use the opportunity to undermine the legislature's ability to extend emergency declarations further to say that we acted correctly. However, the fact that our 36-day extension provided sufficient time for PEMA

to respond to Tropical Storm Ida's impact on Pennsylvania helps demonstrate that the process now provided under our Constitution works.

So, I thank the administration for staying in contact throughout this emergency and communicating effectively. Thank you to Senate leadership for making the September 21 extension a priority, and thank you to all the Members who voted in support of House Resolution No. 139. I am hopeful that this cooperation will continue--as it must for the betterment of the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, today I am offering a resolution to designate the month of October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

Last Session, I began efforts to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest, commonly referred to as SCA, with the sponsorship of legislation that was signed into law as Act 73 of 2020, known as Peyton's Law. In 2013, Peyton Walker, a graduate of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, died of sudden cardiac arrest at the age of 19. Her mother, Julie Walker, established and now heads the Peyton Walker Foundation, which advocates for the use of electrocardiogram testing, an EKG, to screen for underlying electrical issues in the heart that can lead to sudden cardiac arrest. The foundation, which she heads, conducts free EKG screening events at schools across Pennsylvania and has screened several thousand students, including my two sons.

Julie recently shared with me that on October 16, they held a screening where a young man was found to have a potentially significant heart condition that had never been diagnosed before, and he had passed every one of his previous sports physicals. This speaks directly to the importance of opting to have an EKG in addition to a regular physical. Thanks to Peyton's Law, all Pennsylvania high school athletes and their parents receive information educating them about the benefits of EKG testing for sudden cardiac arrest and the option for requesting such a test as part of an athlete sports physical. Peyton's Law has been an excellent step forward, but there remains a critical need to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and educate people about prevention strategies and how to take immediate action in the case of a cardiac emergency.

Every hour of every day we lose a child to sudden cardiac arrest. The majority of those deaths are attributed to a detectable, treatable heart condition that went undiagnosed due to the limited scope of standard sports physicals and well-child checkups. For this reason, I urge parents to further educate themselves on sudden cardiac arrest and the benefits of requesting an EKG for detecting unknown heart conditions. I also want to commend the great work of the Peyton Walker Foundation and the many other sudden cardiac arrest organizations dedicated to educating, screening, and ultimately saving the lives of children.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in supporting my resolution to recognize October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the importance of our public transportation infrastructure and to call on my colleagues to use the rest of our time this Session to build plans for investing in our economic growth and quality of

life by increasing permanent funding for multimodal transportation.

Modernizing how we pay for Pennsylvania's multimodal transportation system is a complex and urgent imperative. As I hope we already know, we are failing to take care of our roads and bridges by billions of dollars each year. It will come as a surprise to no one that we are also underfunding our multimodal infrastructure, particularly, public transit, by at least \$1 billion annually. Right now, we are seeing the cost of weak multimodal infrastructure: delays at the ports; not enough capacity in our freight rail; supply chain issues compounded by our infrastructure; and do not forget, a labor shortage in almost every industry as working people face barriers to re-entering the job market--in particular, a lack of adequate transit options to get to job opportunities.

Let me give you an example. Right now, there is no way to get to King of Prussia from Philadelphia or Delaware County besides an hour-long bus ride. Depending on what time of day, that hour-long bus ride could be an hour and a half. It is ridiculous that the area with the hottest job growth in greater Philadelphia still has no rail service. SEPTA has proposed an extension of the Norristown Line to King of Prussia so that workers, shoppers, and visitors can get there from Upper Darby. That is thousands of jobs and thousands of cars off the Schuylkill Expressway every day, easing the chokehold. That is new companies locating to the Commonwealth to connect with our workforce. That is economic growth, but it will not come without public investment. It is a \$1.2 billion project that is well worth it. We need to think about the returns: up to 6,300 new jobs, over \$600 million in additional earnings every year, and \$700 million in development.

Transit is rural, it is urban, and it is for people of all ages and abilities. Pennsylvania has share ride services for seniors and people with disabilities in every county in the State; medium-sized systems in cities like State College, Allentown, Erie, Lancaster, Scranton, and Harrisburg; and large transit systems in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Transit funding matters to the entire State. Transit agencies need dependable, long-term funding to make responsible decisions about preserving or expanding service so that public transit workers and riders are not faced with service cuts, fare increases, or layoffs to address funding shortfalls. Even if the Federal infrastructure package passes, Pennsylvania is way behind in the local and State funding for our public transit systems compared to other States. Other States are funding 3 to 7 times the share of capital investment in transit infrastructure than we are here in Pennsylvania. We need to stop falling behind.

I strongly believe that the legislature needs to stop thinking of transit as the transportation option of last resort. It needs to be our first choice. It needs to be the first choice because it is the most inclusive model of transportation. It needs to be our first choice because it spurs the greatest economic growth for our regions. It needs to be our first choice because it is the best transportation tool in the fight against climate change. It needs to be our first choice because Pennsylvanians need it to work, survive, and live; and we are elected to serve them. It needs to be our first choice because traffic is not getting any better. It needs to be our first choice because Pennsylvania needs to remain competitive in the global economy.

States and metropolitan areas that are investing in transit infrastructure at higher rates than us are achieving higher economic

growth rates. Why? Because they are attracting highly skilled workers, new companies, and greater development in real estate: they are out-competing us across the board. If we want to be competitive and relevant in the global economy, we need to stop thinking of transit infrastructure and operations as a cost and to start thinking about it as an investment. If we want the Commonwealth's fiscal position to improve, we need economic growth. For that growth, we need to find permanent funding solutions for transit and multimodal transportation infrastructure. I would be glad to work with any of my colleagues who are ready to take advantage of this opportunity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Kane.

Senator KANE. Mr. President, like all of you, most days I have the option to work remotely instead of driving into Harrisburg or a district office for meetings. We can meet constituents and discuss issues from our own homes. In fact, we can do almost everything online now. We can talk to friends and family, order meals and groceries, file our taxes, pay rent and bills, look for and apply for jobs, and connect with our constituents. That is what it means to have access to broadband in 2021. But for almost 600,000 Pennsylvanians, that is not a reality. Five-hundred ninety-eight thousand Pennsylvanians lack access to high-speed broadband. One-hundred sixty-two thousand lack wired internet access at all. Even where connectivity is available, costs could be prohibitive. Only half of all Pennsylvanians have access to an internet connection that costs less than \$60 a month. Broadband is infrastructure; like our roads and bridges, broadband access is an essential part of keeping communities connected and commerce functioning. Lack of access to affordable broadband puts our Commonwealth behind. Expanding access to broadband infrastructure means expanding equality, and like all infrastructure expansion, it also means an opportunity to create good-paying jobs, family-sustaining union jobs.

When we build unions we strengthen our middle class, we make investments not just for this generation, but investments that will last for many generations. We provide jobs, dignity, and support our communities in need across the Commonwealth, and that should be something we all get behind.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Resolution No. 174, which recognizes October 2021 as National Sensory Processing Disorder Awareness Month across the Commonwealth. Throughout this month, parents, educators, therapists, and caregivers spread awareness of sensory processing disorders and how they affect many children and adults every day. The Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation, which marks its 32nd anniversary this year, works to educate and raise awareness of processing disorders.

Sensory processing refers to how our central nervous system receives messages from our senses and turns them into appropriate motor and behavioral responses. This includes our five primary senses—sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch—along with other sensations we feel such as balance and body awareness. Sensory processing disorders, also known as SPD, occur when our brains do not detect sensory signals or when we cannot organize those signals into appropriate responses. A leading

researcher in the field has described SPD as a neurological traffic jam. A person with SPD finds it difficult to process and act upon information received throughout the senses, which creates challenges for them in performing everyday tasks. Challenges can be physical, such as clumsiness; or emotional, such as anxiety and depression. They may manifest in behavioral problems, poor performance at school, extremely high or low tolerance for pain, or difficulties engaging in conversation or play. Some researchers have concluded that SPD affects the daily lives of at least 1 in 20 children while others believe that 1 in 6 children experience sensory disorder symptoms serious enough to affect aspects of their daily lives.

Treatment for SPD often involves customized therapy based on the specific needs of the individual. I encourage all parents, caregivers, and educators to be aware of the warning signs of SPD and to consult a physician if symptoms persist. I ask the Members of the Senate to support this resolution recognizing National Sensory Processing Disorder Awareness Month throughout the Commonwealth in October.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today because it has been 5,589 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage.

I do not need to tell anyone in this body how crucial it is for us to raise the minimum wage in our Commonwealth. Mr. President, a \$7.25 an hour minimum-wage earner makes just over \$15,000 a year. This income level barely exceeds the 2019 Federal poverty threshold for a one-person household, but falls under the poverty threshold for a two-person or more household. Mr. President, that means a single parent with just one child lives beneath the Federal poverty line. Frankly, that is embarrassing. Thankfully, our Governor is taking matters into his own hands with his recent executive order he signed. Under the executive order, companies receiving incentives and financial help from the Commonwealth must pay at least \$13.50 an hour to all their employees. If we are going to be supporting employers around the Commonwealth, we need to be supporting our employees as well. If a business wants the Commonwealth's support, the least they can do is provide family-sustaining wages to their employees. But, Mr. President, the Governor's executive order still does not cover all Pennsylvanians. That is why I am calling on this body to pass Senate Bill No. 12, because it is time to make sure the people of this Commonwealth are raised out of poverty and provided with a family-sustaining wage for the work they do.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Sabatina.

Senator SABATINA. Mr. President, transportation infrastructure is the backbone of cities and communities across the Commonwealth. In Pennsylvania, we are comprised of 67 counties that each has its own landscape, rural areas, suburbs, and larger cities. Ensuring that we have safe and accessible transportation needs is a top priority for the good of our economy and our workers, students, and tourists who want to explore our State. Our State is strongest when all 67 counties can operate and function together, and our roads, bridges, and mass transit options make that possible. Without safe roads, bridges, and access to

mass transit, our local economies are quickly ground to a halt. Now that the vaccine has been distributed to millions, it is safer for individuals to go back to work and for kids to go back to school. It is now time to focus on making sure cities and communities have strong infrastructure to support safety, efficiency, and the overall function of areas across the Commonwealth.

We want transportation in Pennsylvania to continue to support our economy, tourism, and attract new residents and students; we need to invest. Good roads, bridges, and mass transit do not come for free. We also know that good transportation networks can shape development, influence property values, and determine the neighborhoods' character and quality of life. Money from the American Rescue Plan and President Biden's pending infrastructure bill has the power to change the trajectory of Pennsylvania's economy, tourism industry, and overall quality of life. We have seen, in so many circumstances, that investments are needed in our transportation system. The need for improvements in hard infrastructure like roads and bridges can be seen by anyone who takes a drive down a road cratered with potholes or someone who has to change their commute because the local bridges are too deteriorated to drive on. PennDOT has it on their own website that despite rising traffic and freight travel in our State, the funds available to maintain our transportation system have not kept pace due to a shrinking gas tax and Federal revenues. Our investment needs are outgrowing our current funding, and this gap gets worse every year.

As a matter of fact, many Pennsylvania highways and bridges need replacement or rehabilitation. As of 2019, more than 2,500 Pennsylvania bridges were rated in poor condition. The average bridge age is 50 years, and with a typical life span of approximately 75 years, this need is not going away anytime soon. Repairs are critical to maintain safety and our economy, and making these repairs on our critical interstate bridges has required diverting funds from regional projects. In fact, PennDOT is predicting an \$8.1 billion shortfall, which can result in closed highways and bridges across the Commonwealth. When this happens, one bridge closure can cost Pennsylvania drivers approximately \$70,000 a day. It also leads to more expensive fixes and repairs down the line, where it is estimated to cost Pennsylvanians \$5.8 billion in lost time and fuel costs. For drivers, that means more fuel and maintenance costs, lost time on the roads with \$1,100 in lost time and fuel costs per commuter.

Since 2011, commute times have increased 7.6 percent in Pennsylvania and, on average, each driver pays \$620 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. This means unpredictable detours for not only commuters, but also our supply chain drivers, causing delays when bridges need to be posted with weight restrictions, requiring detours that increase truck travel time and costs amounting to an additional 14.2 million hours per year for truck drivers. That said, these investments do not only need to focus on maintenance and rehabilitation. We can look towards the future of transportation and prepare our roads to embrace innovation that is already disrupting how people get around. Infrastructure, like electric car charging stations, decentralized traffic lights, and solar roadways are all forward-thinking solutions that can make road travel more friendly to our environment and efficient for drivers. The ideas and solutions are out there, we just need the investment to make this innovation a reality.

Further, for Pennsylvania to have a truly strong transportation system, we need both good roads and a solid mass transit system available for the people. Think about how many people left big cities for more room in the suburbs during the pandemic. Now, maybe more than ever for economic growth and the health of our cities, we need to make sure that we are providing viable transportation options to keep our cities thriving. There are also new job centers growing out in the suburbs, so we need to make sure we are providing transit opportunities to make those areas accessible as well.

President Biden's trillion-dollar infrastructure package looks to provide for substantial mass transit projects here in the Commonwealth, which includes in Pittsburgh, providing for extended bus routes to connect more people with jobs, bringing more residents within a ride of its tech sector and major research universities. Across Pennsylvania, Amtrak would get \$12 billion for new inner-city service, including plans to connect Scranton, Reading, and Allentown to New York. Thirty billion dollars would be allocated to upgrade Amtrak's Northeast Corridor line to increase speeds on the 457-mile Boston to Washington route. In Philadelphia, projects to benefit the 30th Street Station, which is the second busiest on the corridor, would benefit New Jersey Transit and SEPTA, which both run on Amtrak tracks. My colleagues in the northeast region of the Commonwealth, there has not been a passenger rail in your region since the 1970s. This important investment in a new route would help the region's many commuters to New York City and would go a long way in diverting passenger vehicles off the congested commuter highways leading through New Jersey and into New York City, not to mention the potential for an economic boom by adding the new route. Therefore, in closing, it is incumbent upon us all to come together and face these infrastructure and mass transit challenges head on. By taking advantage of these unprecedented investments, we have the opportunity to shape Pennsylvania's infrastructure and transit network for the better in the years and decades to come.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about an issue that is affecting almost every single one of my constituents in the 38th Senatorial District, water and stormwater infrastructure. While we put \$7 billion of CARES fund money in the Rainy Day Fund this past weekend, tornadoes touched down across my district. A few weeks before that, students had to be evacuated from a school bus caught in dangerous flash flood waters. Last month, it was a hurricane decimating southeastern Pennsylvania. Our constituents are way past rainy days. The floods are here, and someone is at real risk of drowning if we do not make a major investment in our infrastructure. I cannot think of a single area of my district that is not experiencing significant disruption from aging or insufficient water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. Whether it is flooded roadways and collapsing water infrastructure on McKnight Road in Ross Township and Kittanning Pike in O'Hara Township, property erosion in McCandless and Indiana Townships, or homes being flooded in Fawn Township, the watersheds of western Pennsylvania remind us every day that our actions have consequences outside ourselves. Water from Bradford Woods at the top of my district impacts homes in Etna and Millvale at the bottom of my district.

We are connected by these waterways, and we need to care for them together.

That is why I have introduced legislation that would make a \$350 million investment in stormwater, water, and sewer projects to ensure that all residents have access to safe, clean drinking water and to protect the lives and property of our residents from the increasing danger of floods. With the local match requirement, the total investment in water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure will be \$450 million. As a State, we need to make a meaningful investment in our water and stormwater infrastructure to improve the lives, safety, and well-being of all of our residents, and we need to do it before these increasingly intense storms move from causing property damage to costing us human lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## HOUSE MESSAGES

### HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 725**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

### HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 425**.

### BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following Senate Bills numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

October 27, 2021

Senators MUTH, COLLETT, CAPPELLETTI and COMITTA presented to the Chair **SB 903**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, providing for surgical smoke evacuation systems.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, October 27, 2021.

Senators SAVAL, STREET, MUTH, HUGHES, KANE, KEARNEY, COSTA, CAPPELLETTI, HAYWOOD, L. WILLIAMS, COMITTA, TARTAGLIONE and A. WILLIAMS presented to the Chair **SB 912**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, further providing for definitions; prohibiting use of criminal history and retaliation relating to use of criminal history; providing for notice to prospective occupants and tenants related to use of criminal history and for exclusions and other legal requirements related to use of criminal history; and further providing for procedure and for civil penalties.

Which was committed to the Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, October 27, 2021.

Senators MUTH, FONTANA, COMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, KANE, HUGHES, BREWSTER, L. WILLIAMS, KEARNEY, HAYWOOD, STREET and COSTA presented to the Chair **SB 918**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for uniformity in administration of assistance and regulations as to assistance.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, October 27, 2021.

Senators HUTCHINSON, KANE, MENSCH, J. WARD, PITTMAN and MASTRIANO presented to the Chair **SB 927**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military educational programs, further providing for medical officer or health officer incentive program, for definitions, for establishment of program, for program stipend, for additional incentives, for recoupment of incentive payments and for adjustment of stipend amounts.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, October 27, 2021.

### RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolution numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which was read by the Clerk:

October 27, 2021

Senators CAPPELLETTI, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, KEARNEY, COSTA, BROOKS, COMITTA, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, MENSCH, SCAVELLO, PHILLIPS-HILL, KANE, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, GORDNER, MUTH, STREET, HUTCHINSON and FLYNN presented to the Chair **SR 200**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of October 2021 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, October 27, 2021.

### APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Senator Christine M. Tartaglione as a Commonwealth Trustee of Temple University.

### BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bills were signed by the President pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the presence of the Senate:

**SB 725** and **HB 425**.

**RECESS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, November 8, 2021, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:19 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.