

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

SESSION OF 2022 206TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 11

SENATE

MONDAY, April 4, 2022

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend CHRIS STARR, of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brogue, offered the following prayer:

Shall we pray.

Our Father, we thank You today for who You are as Creator. Lord, thank You for making us. I want to thank You today for these public servants who have given their lives, Lord, to work for the people here in our Commonwealth. Lord, we thank You today for, Lord, giving us freedom. Lord, thank You for the privilege to live in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world, Lord, that You have given us the freedom to be here today; and, Lord, the health; and, Lord, the breath. Lord, we know that every good gift that we have--that we have been given--comes from You. You are the Giver of good gifts. Lord, today, decisions will be made, Lord, debate will take place, and Lord, we ask for Your wisdom. Lord, Your Word says that if we ask for wisdom, Lord, that You would give it. Lord, we understand that our biggest problems that we face today are our sins. Lord, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die, to be buried, and to rise again to pay for man's sin. Lord, I pray today as these men and women meet, Lord, that they will understand that what they do is before You today. Lord, it is before the State of Pennsylvania, and, Lord, our citizens; but, Lord, more importantly, it is before You. Lord, I thank You for them. I pray, Lord, that You will guide their minds and their thoughts on this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the

Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

**MEMBER OF THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS
CONDEMNATION APPROVAL BOARD**

March 31, 2022

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, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Marlin Lynch, Warfordsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

CLERK OF COURTS, DAUPHIN COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Clerk of Courts, in and for the County of Dauphin, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice Dale Klein, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE CONSTABLES'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

March 31, 2022

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, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Constables' Education and Training Board, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Thomas Brletic, McKeesport, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

CONTROLLER, ALLEGHENY COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Controller, in and for the County of Allegheny, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice Chelsa Wagner, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

March 31, 2022

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Kevin Brobson, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Jeffrey Manning, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BERKS COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Mary K. Topper, Esquire, 232 Sylvania Avenue, Glenside 19038, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Berks County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Timothy Rowley, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Blair County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Daniel Milliron, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BUTLER COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Mary K. Topper, Esquire, 232 Sylvania Avenue, Glenside 19038, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Butler County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable William Shaffer, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, CHESTER COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Chester County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Katherine Platt, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, CHESTER COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Mary K. Topper, Esquire, 232 Sylvania Avenue, Glenside 19038, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Chester County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Jacqueline Cody, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DAUPHIN COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Richard Lewis, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, LANCASTER COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Mary K. Topper, Esquire, 232 Sylvania Avenue, Glenside 19038, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Lancaster County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Donald Totaro, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Theron Perez, Esquire, 22 Tall Tree Drive, Camp Hill 17011, York County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Lori Dumas, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

March 31, 2022

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, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Schuylkill County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable William Baldwin, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Douglas Grimes, Canonsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, vice new position created by Act 91 of 2020.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Allegheny, Magisterial District 05-2-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Thomas Caulfield, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cambria, Magisterial District 47-3-07, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Frederick Creany, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Delaware, Magisterial District 32-1-28, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Deborah Krull, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Delaware, Magisterial District 32-1-35, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Ann Berardocco, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Lycoming, Magisterial District 29-3-03, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Jon Kemp, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Potter, Magisterial District 55-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Annette Easton, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Snyder, Magisterial District 17-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Lori Hackenberg, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Washington, Magisterial District 27-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Jesse Pettit, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

March 31, 2022

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of York, Magisterial District 19-1-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Ronald Haskell, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

March 31, 2022

Senator CORMAN presented to the Chair SB 1178, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the State Fire Commissioner and the Governor, to relocate a permanent easement previously granted to Mifflin County from certain lands of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the State Fire Academy situate in the Borough of Lewistown, Mifflin County, for the benefit of the general public.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 31, 2022.

April 1, 2022

Senators KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, MUTH, L. WILLIAMS, SAVAL, STREET and KANE presented to the Chair **SB 1146**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 54 (Names) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Program and for powers and duties of Department of Community and Economic Development; establishing the Compassionate Name Change Assistance Grant Fund; and making an appropriation.

Which was committed to the Committee on COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, April 1, 2022.

Senators L. WILLIAMS, CAPPELLETTI, KEARNEY, MUTH, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, SAVAL, KANE and STREET presented to the Chair **SB 1149**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, providing for duties of commission relating to name changes by certain individuals.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 1, 2022.

Senators CAPPELLETTI, KEARNEY, MUTH, L. WILLIAMS, SAVAL, KANE, FONTANA and STREET presented to the Chair **SB 1150**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 54 (Names) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in judicial change of name, further providing for court approval required for change of name and for change by order of court, providing for change by administrative application and further providing for effect on children.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 1, 2022.

Senators HUTCHINSON, BOSCOLA, KANE, MENSCH, J. WARD, PITTMAN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1171**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for permit for movement during course of manufacture.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, April 1, 2022.

Senators MARTIN, MENSCH, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, FONTANA, COLLETT, J. WARD, COSTA, MASTRIANO, BOSCOLA, PITTMAN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1173**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76), known as The Dental Law, further providing for general powers of the State Board of Dentistry.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 1, 2022.

Senators BAKER, AUMENT, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, COLLETT, KANE, KEARNEY, CORMAN, COSTA, SANTARSIERO, GORDNER, BREWSTER, MENSCH, SCHWANK, J. WARD, PITTMAN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1179**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in domestic and sexual violence victim address confidentiality, further providing for definitions, for persons eligible to apply and for application and certification process.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 1, 2022.

Senators BROOKS, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, SCHWANK, GEBHARD, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, STREET, MASTRIANO, LAUGHLIN, ARGALL, LANGERHOLC, CORMAN, HUTCHINSON, GORDNER, MENSCH, J. WARD, PITTMAN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1181**, entitled:

An Act authorizing the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Pennsylvania schools.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, April 1, 2022.

April 4, 2022

Senators BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, HUGHES, FONTANA, MARTIN, STEFANO, VOGEL, MENSCH, COSTA, YUDICHAK, COLLETT, AUMENT, YAW, SANTARSIERO, PHILLIPS-HILL and LAUGHLIN presented to the Chair **SB 1180**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 24, 2004 (P.L.1270, No.153), referred to as the Pennsylvania Amber Alert System Law, establishing the Pennsylvania Silver Alert System; and further providing for immunity.

Which was committed to the Committee on LAW AND JUSTICE, April 4, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolutions numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

April 1, 2022

Senators LANGERHOLC, PITTMAN, YAW, K. WARD, ARGALL, BARTOLOTTA, LAUGHLIN, GEBHARD, MARTIN, BAKER, CORMAN, ROBINSON, PHILLIPS-HILL, YUDICHAK, GORDNER, MENSCH, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 255**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the President of the United States to restart and expedite the completion of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 1, 2022.

April 4, 2022

Senators TARTAGLIONE, BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, CAPPELLETTI, COLLETT, COMITTA, MUTH, SCHWANK, L. WILLIAMS, STREET, HUGHES, KANE, VOGEL, BROWNE, KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, MENSCH, GORDNER, COSTA, BREWSTER, CORMAN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 257**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of April 2022 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 4, 2022.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following bills for concurrence, which were referred to the committees indicated:

April 1, 2022

HB 637 -- Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy.

HB 2068 -- Committee on Transportation.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Mr. Mark Urbassik as a member of the Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator DUSH, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bills:

SB 1058 (Pr. No. 1393)

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in auditors and accountants, further providing for auditor's compensation.

HB 1184 (Pr. No. 2928) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in creation and alteration, further providing for definitions, for contiguous areas, for applications, for borough advisory committee, for adjustment of indebtedness, for judicial adjustment, for judicial adjustment award proceedings, for compensation, expenses and costs, for territory located in multiple counties and for bond issues and taxation; in associations and organizations, further providing for associations and organizations for mayors; in elections of officers, further providing for eligibility; in powers, duties and rights of appointed officers and employees, further providing for appointments and incompatible offices and for police serving under cooperative agreement or contract; in corporate powers, further providing for specific powers; in taxation and finance, further providing for investment of funds; providing for solid waste collection and disposition; and, in ordinances, further providing for ordinances and resolutions and for publication.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Anthony Williams and Senator Haywood.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Pittman.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Anthony Williams and Senator Haywood.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of September 14, 2021; September 21, 2021; September 22, 2021; September 27, 2021; September 28, 2021; and September 29, 2021, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of September 14, 2021; September 21, 2021; September 22, 2021; September 27, 2021; September 28, 2021; and September 29, 2021.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals 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	Laughlin	Schwank
Aument	Dush	Martin	Stefano
Baker	Flynn	Mastriano	Street
Bartolotta	Fontana	Mensch	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gebhard	Muth	Tomlinson
Brewster	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Brooks	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Costa			

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

GUESTS OF SENATOR KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce our guest Chaplain, Pastor Chris Starr, from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church located in The Brogue. Pastor Starr began serving Mt. Zion Baptist Church in 1999, and after 14 years serving as his father's assistant pastor, Pastor Starr became Mt. Zion's senior pastor in 2013. Supporting over 60 ministries around the world, Mt. Zion Baptist Church shares their message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, near and far. Thank you, Pastor Starr, for your congregation's prayers uplifting all the Members of the General Assembly, and for today, delivering such a thoughtful prayer at the start of our Session week. Seated in the gallery are guests of Pastor Starr. Joining us today are his wife, Jenny; his daughter, Alyssa; and their friends and members of the Mt. Zion congregation, the Haywoods, Eric, Sr., and Eric, Jr. Would my colleagues please join me in a warm Senate welcome for Pastor Starr and his guests.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Phillips-Hill please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

RECESS

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room and via Zoom.

The PRESIDENT. 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 immediately as well.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a legislative leave for Senator Corman. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

SENATE CONCURRENT REGULATORY REVIEW RESOLUTION No. 1 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that **Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1** be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT. **Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1** will be placed on the Calendar.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 113 (Pr. No. 84) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act selecting, designating and adopting the Pennsylvania March as the official march of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 137 and **HB 221** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL AMENDED

HB 245 (Pr. No. 2141) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, further providing for license without restriction and for institutional license.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator K. WARD offered the following amendment No. A3774:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 10, by striking out "AND" and inserting a comma

Amend Bill, page 1, line 10, by inserting after "LICENSE":
and for temporary license

Amend Bill, page 1, line 16, by striking out "AND 32(A)" and inserting:

, 32(a) and 33(a) and (c)

Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 15 and 16:

Section 33. Temporary license.

(a) General rule.--A temporary license empowers the licensee to:

[(1) teach medicine and surgery or participate in a medical procedure necessary for the well-being of a specified patient within this Commonwealth; or

(2) practice medicine and surgery at a camp or resort for no more than three months.]

(3) teach or demonstrate advanced medical and surgical techniques within this Commonwealth;

(4) participate in a medical or surgical procedure necessary for the well-being of a specific patient within this Commonwealth;

(5) practice medicine and surgery at a camp or resort for no more than three months;

(6) attend to the medical and surgical needs of a person visiting this Commonwealth for no more than three months;

(7) practice medicine and surgery within this Commonwealth in response to a need for medical care created by a declaration of disaster emergency issued by the Governor under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to general authority of Governor) or any other Federal, State or local disaster emergency for a duration determined by the board; or

(8) engage in any other purpose as deemed appropriate by the board on a case-by-case basis.

* * *

(C) Additional conditions.--The board may impose any appropriate limitation in scope, duration or site of practice on the temporary license. Temporary licensees shall be deemed health care providers who conduct 50% or less of their health care business or practice within this Commonwealth for the purposes of the act of [October 15, 1975 (P.L.390, No.111), known as the Health Care Services Malpractice Act] March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act.

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

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

YE A-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 322, SB 457, SB 573, SB 676, SB 703, SB 704, HB 723, SB 745, SB 775, SB 862, HB 889, SB 934, SB 935, SB 967, SB 992, HB 995 and HB 996 -- 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 1030 (Pr. No. 1337) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for suspension of the Pennsylvania Heavy-Duty Diesel Emissions Control Program and for expiration of suspension.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator YAW. Mr. President, what this bill would do is make permanent the suspension of the California Air Resources Board requirements that have been implemented by DEP for diesel engines in Pennsylvania. In November of 2021, DEP suspended enforcement of this requirement with the idea that they would reevaluate this suspension enforcement on or before July 31, 2023. There are new regulations which will be coming out under the Federal requirements by 2026. So, it seems to make little sense to have maybe 3 years of implementation of a regulation which only applies to California and Pennsylvania, and that would obviously, during that period of uncertainty, cause significant problems for diesel engine sales in Pennsylvania when they could just go outside of Pennsylvania to a State that has not been involved with the California Air Resources Board requirements. So what this would do is, it would require that Pennsylvania comply with all Federal requirements. There are no changes along those lines. It just takes out the uncertainty of complying with the California Air Resources Board. I ask for an affirmative vote.

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:

YE A-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-18

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

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1660, HB 1849 and HB 2051 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 118, SB 152, SB 225, SB 230, SB 284, SB 297, SB 471, SB 527, SB 569, HB 581, SB 597, SB 622, SB 811, SB 815, SB 845, SB 892, HB 951, SB 956 and SB 965 -- 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 977 (Pr. No. 1284) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth Financing Authority, providing for Economic Recovery Grant Program; imposing a duty to report to the General Assembly; and making an appropriation.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 987, SB 993, SB 1016, SB 1027, SB 1031, SB 1051, SB 1053, SB 1057, HB 1096, SB 1167 and HB 1248 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1500 (Pr. No. 1563) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in abortion, further providing for definitions, for medical consultation and judgment and for reporting.

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

HB 1500 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1500, Printer's No. 1563, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1665, HB 1801 and HB 2058 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

RECONSIDERATION OF SENATE CONCURRENT REGULATORY REVIEW RESOLUTION No. 1, THE OBJECTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING

MOTION TO PASS SENATE CONCURRENT REGULATORY REVIEW RESOLUTION No. 1 OVER GOVERNOR'S VETO, DEFEATED

Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1 -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the resolution, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution disapproving the Environmental Quality Board regulation (#7-559) on CO2 budget trading program.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed with the reconsideration of Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1, and agree to pass the same, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward moves that the Senate proceed to reconsider Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1, and agree to pass the same, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding.

On the override, the Chair would like to remind Members that the vote required for the motion is two-thirds. Two-thirds of the Senators, or 33 votes. An "aye" vote is to override; a "no" vote is to sustain the Governor's veto.

On the question,

Shall the Senate reconsider and agree to pass the resolution, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Yudichak.

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, in 2008 I voted for the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act that established a climate change action plan for Pennsylvania. That plan did three things: it identified greenhouse gas emission trends and baselines; it evaluated cost-effective strategies for reducing, or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions; and it conducted a cost-benefit analysis of greenhouse gas reduction strategies, including the impact of those strategies on Pennsylvania meeting future consumer energy demand. The bipartisan PA Climate Change Act, advanced by a Democrat Governor and a Republican General Assembly, is renewed every 3 years and has produced some remarkable advancements in the fight against climate change. In the last decade, Pennsylvania reduced greenhouse gas emissions by over 40 percent, keeping it on pace with RGGI States without

the overhead cost or the economic fallout from RGGI. In the last 5 years, the number of small solar installations has doubled in Pennsylvania. Wind power has become the State's largest renewable source of electricity generation, and Pennsylvania now ranks as a top 10 State in electricity generated from biomass resources. Remember, over this same period, Pennsylvania became energy independent and the largest net exporter of electricity in the United States. RGGI States, over this same period of time, saw total energy generation in their respective States go down by 15 percent, their electricity imports tripled, and their utility costs for consumers went up.

So let us review the factual data. Pennsylvania has made significant gains in addressing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing renewable energy, producing clean-burning natural gas that has made us energy independent, and revitalized Pennsylvania's manufacturing industry. It is good news, right? It is good news. Pennsylvania voters say yes. It is great news for their family budgets with lower utility bills; it is great news for Pennsylvania union building trades who have benefitted from thousands of new jobs created each year in Pennsylvania's energy industry; and it is great news for Pennsylvania businesses, which have become more competitive because of affordable domestic Pennsylvania energy.

Radical environmentalists, driven by ideological fervor rather than climate science facts, deny Pennsylvania's climate change progress. They blindly dismiss independent scientists and economists, they scold our brothers and sisters in organized labor, and they disparage Pennsylvania businesses, all in a fevered demand for a zero-carbon world that does not exist, and cannot exist, until a sustainable zero-carbon fuel can meet the world's energy demands. The radical environmentalists do not care what the Pennsylvania taxpayers must pay for their zero-carbon dreams or what Pennsylvania businesses are destroyed by it. They want RGGI. They want RGGI not because it produces greater progress on greenhouse gas emission reductions--because the Independent Fiscal Office recently told a joint hearing of this Senate that the statistical data does not support that claim--the radical environmental movement wants RGGI because it will produce more vanity likes on Facebook and more clicks on Twitter for their radical energy agenda, an agenda that ignores the science, a war in Europe, and that RGGI is an unconstitutional, unvetted, legislative end-run executive order that will impose an \$800 million energy tax on Pennsylvania businesses and a 30 percent to 40 percent increase in the home heating bills of every Pennsylvania homeowner.

Last year northeastern Pennsylvania led all of Pennsylvania with the creation of over 1,300 new manufacturing jobs, jobs paying an average wage of \$65,000 a year to start. RGGI will kill those jobs and Pennsylvania's growing manufacturing industry. Northeastern Pennsylvania has five operational energy plants built by union labor; RGGI will likely shut down every one of those plants. Prior to the Governor's RGGI executive order in 2019, the Pennsylvania building trade unions built \$14 billion worth of natural gas infrastructure projects in Pennsylvania. Since RGGI became the focus of this radical green agenda, not a single natural gas project has advanced in Pennsylvania. An \$800 million Bradford County LNG plant, that could have empowered the brave people of Ukraine to beat back naked Russian aggression, has been shut down by environmental obstructionists who do not care about national security or America's role in

global politics. The PennEast pipeline, which would have put 12,000 building trade union members to work, has been shut down by the same environmental obstructionists who do not care that they are putting the Pennsylvania building trade unions out of work. The radical environmentalists do not have a climate, American security, organized labor, or economic agenda. They have a partisan, political agenda fueled by fear and misinformation. They demand allegiance to an irrational goal of zero carbon today, immediately, without the scientific technology to support a zero-carbon-based economy today.

Most Pennsylvania voters agree, Pennsylvania is making great progress on climate change with a balanced, responsible approach that respects consumers, recognizes realistic energy demands, and considers the economic impact zero-carbon energy policies will have on Pennsylvania families. The debate is not about the reality of climate change. The debate is, how extensive is the threat? How best can governments mitigate the threat of climate change? Steven Koonin, the former Under Secretary for Science in the U.S. Department of Energy in the President Obama administration, wrote a very insightful book called *Unsettled*. *Unsettled* lays out some very important climate science data. Yes, the globe is warming, and, yes, humans have influence upon it. But beyond that, the science is not settled. Here are some facts Professor Koonin points out: the warmest temperatures in the United States have not risen in 50 years; humans have no detectable impact on hurricanes over the past century; Greenland's ice sheet is not shrinking more rapidly than it was 80 years ago; and the net economic impact of human-induced climate change will be minimal through at least the end of this century and beyond. So why the unconstitutional, no compromise, damn-the-consumers, damn-the-economy, and damn-the-unions push to join RGGI? Because it tempers the rage of the radical environmental movement with a false sense of moral superiority that they, and they alone, are saving the planet.

I would suggest this General Assembly end the RGGI madness in Pennsylvania. I said yes, we come together as we have in the past, as Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, to forge a Pennsylvania energy policy that continues the progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Pennsylvania, strengthens our role as the largest exporter of electricity in the United States, advances Pennsylvania as a leader in net-zero carbon technologies, and promotes the Pennsylvania building trades as the energy innovators of the 21st century. Projects like Nacero, in Luzerne County, can transform our battle against climate change by producing a gasoline that achieves a net-zero carbon lifecycle without spending trillions of dollars on an EV infrastructure that is 50 to 75 years away from being perfected. We have the technology and the science to continue Pennsylvania's significant progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Why should we fall for the fool's errand that is RGGI? Higher taxes, higher utility bills, no union jobs, and no measurable progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I encourage my Senate colleagues to find the courage to reject the radical ideology RGGI represents. Reject the madness of the green agenda. Embrace Pennsylvania consumers and taxpayers who cannot afford higher energy bills. Embrace Pennsylvania trade unions who go to work every day building the Pennsylvania energy industry, and embrace Pennsylvania businesses who out-innovate and out-compete the world every day to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow the Pennsylvania

economy. I encourage my Senate colleagues to think about the Pennsylvania taxpayers as you cast your vote today. RGGI will increase their energy bills by 30 to 40 percent. Think about the Pennsylvania businesses that will pay an \$800 million new energy tax. Think about the loss of jobs in our union-built energy plants. Think of the loss of jobs on main streets in every community across this Commonwealth. With war in Europe, gasoline prices over 50 percent, and inflation at a 40-year high, RGGI will be a devastating blow to Pennsylvania's progress on climate change and to the Pennsylvania economy. When given the facts, when given the science, Pennsylvanians have rightly rejected RGGI. It is time for the administration and this General Assembly to follow the lead of sensible Pennsylvanians and the broad coalition of Pennsylvania businesses and Pennsylvania building trade unions who are calling on this legislature to reject the unconstitutional, economically disastrous RGGI plan for Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

And the question recurring,

Shall the Senate reconsider and agree to pass the resolution, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?

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

Senator YAW. Mr. President, I rise today to ask for an affirmative vote in overturning the Governor's veto. We are talking about RGGI. The stated purpose of RGGI originally--Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative--was to reduce the greenhouse gas in our area along with what is happening in other States. I would like to make the observation that climate change is occurring, it will occur, and it has occurred for thousands of years, in fact, hundreds of thousands of years. I spend a lot of time in the Finger Lakes area of New York. I have done some research on the area, and it was 11,000 years ago when there was last ice in that area of New York, which created the Finger Lakes. Now, why did the ice leave? Why did it melt? What happened? I do not think that it was because the Native American campfires caused that much pollution; perhaps, but I do not think so.

Climate change and the effect of climate on us has been a consideration for decades. In 1969, *The New York Times* reported from a recognized scientist that we were facing a catastrophic explosion because of overpopulation, limited food, and contamination by man. They said in that article, "We must realize that unless we're extremely lucky, everybody will disappear in a cloud of blue steam in 20 years." That was in 1969. In 1970, in *The Boston Globe*, one again a recognized scientist from the Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, predicted that there would be an ice age in the 21st century, and it was coming. He also predicted that electric generation demands for the cooling water would boil dry the entire flow of rivers and streams in the continental United States. I do not think that happened, either. In 1971 in *The Washington Post*, an individual from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration stated that in the next 50 years, fine dust particles put in the atmosphere by fossil fuel

burning could screen out so much sunlight that the average temperature could drop by 6 degrees and trigger an ice age. That was in 1971. In 1974 in the *Guardian*, there was an article that said space satellites show conclusively that an ice age was coming fast. The article also stated that between 1935-55 was a warming period, and the article stated that snow and ice covering the Earth increased by 12 percent during the 1967-72 time period, indicating that the average temperatures were now falling. In 1989, the *AP* relayed a warning from a U.N. official who stated entire nations could be wiped off the face of the Earth by rising sea levels if global warming was not reversed by the year 2000. In 2006, of course many of us remember this, former Vice President Al Gore stated that humanity had 10 years left before the point of no return.

Now, I am not making light of the fact of climate change. It is occurring. I recognize it. But, there are many things that we could and should be doing as good stewards of our environment and of the Earth in general. For example, we should be dealing--and we should have been dealing for many years--with the orphan wells and the methane that is leaking from them. These are all things that are positive. Dealing with orphan wells does not cost anybody jobs. We should be looking at farm digesters. Many people think that too much methane comes from animals. Okay, then let us learn to deal with it. That does not cost jobs. There are proposals out there for fluidized bed coal-fired power plants. That does not cost jobs, it creates jobs, and it would be great for Pennsylvania. Then, I will mention one that has nothing to do with the actual air environment, but we should probably stop dumping raw sewage into our rivers. Those are things that are positive and that we could do, rather than chase something like RGGI.

RGGI places a decision involving our economy and environment into the hands of 11 other States. More specifically, RGGI is actually a corporation. So, if you want our State to run and be dependent on a corporation, then I guess RGGI is where you want to go. I do not want to go there. I do not think that we should have our economy and our environment in the hands of 11 other States. The electric prices in those RGGI States--I have looked at them--they have 8 out of the 10 highest electric rates in the country. Why should we join with people who have 8 out of 10 of the highest electric rates in the country? The IFO has said that the cost of RGGI is going to be, I think the latest number is \$781 million, and that is going to be paid by who? Ratepayers.

Pennsylvania, as already noted, is the largest exporter, or has been the largest exporter, of electricity in the country. We are the engine that powers this whole part of the country. We should be proud of it, we should not be restricting it. Even though we are the engine, we have still cut emissions by 40 percent between the period of 2008-20. That is a significant event for Pennsylvania while we are still the largest producer of electricity in the country. Targeted by RGGI are coal-fired power plants and the less-efficient natural gas-fired power plants. But there are studies, that nobody disputes, stating 86 percent of the electric generation that is cut off by RGGI or that leaves Pennsylvania will be picked up by non-RGGI States surrounding Pennsylvania. How is that any net benefit to Pennsylvania at all? It is not.

The jobs lost. We have heard about the jobs: 22,000 jobs are lost. What about the manufacturing that we have here because we have low energy prices, especially electricity? Once those

jobs are gone and those companies leave, or do not come to Pennsylvania, they are going to do one of two things: they are going to go to another State or another country. The likelihood is they are going to go to another country. We heard at a webinar that I had--Dr. Scott Tinker from the University of Texas told us that in the next 30 to 50 years, the major developing areas in the world are Africa, India, and China. Guess what their primary energy source is? Coal. So, we are going to stop our coal-fired power plants here, where we regulate them and we regulate them pretty severely, and we are going to transfer jobs and production that are lost here in Pennsylvania to those areas that primarily rely on coal. To note just a little bit of current politics that are going on, there is an agreement between Russia and China that Russia will produce and sell 100 million tons of coal to China to fire their coal-fired power plants. I mean, what are we doing with RGGI? RGGI fails its stated purpose. Its stated purpose is to reduce emissions, and, in fact, the studies show that the emissions over the first 10 years are reduced by less than 1 percent. So, for that less than 1 percent, we are going to raise electricity rates on all Pennsylvanians, and somehow they are going to pay \$781 million more a year. Let us do the math. You want to make big numbers out of it? Multiply it by five. That is almost \$4 billion in 5 years that we are going to pay in additional electric rates. Individually, you can expect your electric bill to go up by 30 percent.

RGGI costs thousands of jobs. The examples I used, that we could do environmentally, do not cost anything. They are positive, and we should be doing them, but we are not. We are putting those in the second tier, and we are going to chase RGGI. I do not know how many of you may have seen the video that was out about closing down the Cheswick power plant. You should watch it. It is really sad; closing down a coal-fired power plant out near Pittsburgh. The video of closing that plant down is--the only way you can describe it is: it is a bad and sad day for Pennsylvania. As I said, RGGI depends on continued pollution. Just think about that. The allowances that are being purchased, that DEP said would cost no more than \$3.50, and in the last auction they were \$13.50, the market for those depends on people needing them to meet their environmental requirements, their emissions requirements. Well, if everybody is meeting them, there is no market. So, RGGI is really like you have to keep polluting in order for this program to be successful. As I said repeatedly, RGGI places Pennsylvania's economy and its environment in the hands of 11 other States in a corporation. I just do not think that is the way that Pennsylvanians want to operate. RGGI really does nothing positive for Pennsylvania or Pennsylvania's citizens. In my opinion, RGGI probably has the most devastating impact on Pennsylvania's economy of any governmental overture in the last 75 years, and I ask for a positive vote on this override.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I will start like I have started many of my conversations with my colleagues on this issue. If wanting to protect our environment and address the very real and growing impacts of climate change is radical, then I am a radical environmentalist. But, so is the rest of Pennsylvania, because 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--also known as RGGI, as we are talking about, an initiative to regulate carbon emissions--is supported by 75 percent of Pennsylvanians and at least 70 percent in every county. This resolution is being pushed through so that the legislature may continue to do nothing to regulate the continued release of dangerous levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Preventing Pennsylvania from joining RGGI will set back our efforts to address climate change by years while providing no long-term nor short-term benefit to the citizens of our Commonwealth. In fact, it will actively cause harm and deteriorate our public health.

This resolution is part of the broader conservative agenda to keep the fossil fuel industry around for longer than it deserves. Coal, oil, and gas are finite resources. These plants are closing sooner rather than later, one way or another, and not because of RGGI, but because that is what our society demands. 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. Pennsylvania can still be an energy leader, a clean energy leader. Clean energy is already growing fast in Pennsylvania. Our Commonwealth ranks 16th in the nation in terms of the amount of energy it gets from wind power and is home to more than 547 solar businesses, making it one of the largest solar employers in the nation. Clean energy jobs are more likely to come with healthcare and retirement benefits than jobs across the rest of the private sector because unionization rates for clean energy jobs are higher than the rest of the private sector with very few exceptions. We need to shift this conversation from protecting oil and gas to readying our Commonwealth for a renewable energy. Political games to protect the fossil fuel industry will destroy our environment and our futures. At its core, it will hurt the lives and health of Pennsylvanians in the long term, but by joining RGGI and providing the Commonwealth with a sustained source of investment for economic growth, we are setting ourselves up for long-term success.

I would like to close with this. My colleague quoted a Steve Koonin book, *Unsettled*. It is a book about climate change written by a non-climate scientist. Research for this book was conducted by recruiting three scientists to represent 97 percent consensus and 3 contrarians to speak for the 3 percent. It does not take a scientist--or a mathematician, for that matter--to see the unfair and unbalanced representation in the research for that book. It also does not take into account the doomists who believe it is simply too late to do anything about climate change and our planet is going to die with us on it. In fact, there is a lot to be picked apart about the soundness of the scientific arguments in this book. But I will quote a review by Mark Boslough, an expert in the study of planetary impacts and global catastrophes: "Why does Koonin think that unsettled questions in climate science are any kind of comfort when the consequences of doing nothing can be catastrophic? *Unsettled* should leave serious scientists feeling unsettled." We here in Pennsylvania, doing nothing to address climate change, should make us feel unsettled.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, the idea of entering the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative at this time is unfit, really. It is terrible timing for it, if there was a time. I do not think there is a time for it, actually. In my lifetime I have watched discus-

sions about how once we reach 1 billion people in population, the Earth would be a catastrophe. Massive deaths, food shortages. Did not happen. Then around the same time, in the 1960s, a new ice age was discussed and we were told about how pollution would usher in an era of glaciers overrunning our cities and what have you. Then watched in the 1990s, a new ice age go for global warming, and since the data was not matching up to that, now it is called climate change.

Pennsylvania is an energy powerhouse. We have the potential to be so much more. Right now we are the nation's overall number three energy producer, number three coal producer, and number two natural gas provider. Not only do we meet our own energy needs, but we bless the other States around us, and some foreign countries as well, in meeting their energy needs. Many States rely upon Pennsylvania to keep their own power grids up and running.

Presently, 60 plants across the State produce 60 percent of our energy needs. It may make some sense for legislators in 11 States who joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to support this pact. After all, those States do not come close to the number of electricity production facilities that we have in Pennsylvania. Those States will not have to deal with the effects of rising consumer prices, plant closures, and job loss on such a mass scale. The carbon tax imposed by RGGI will result in immediate job losses across our energy sector and around the State. According to our Department of Environmental Protection, all five remaining coal-fired electricity plants will be shuttered within a year of enactment, and that will be catastrophic to our economy and to the nation as well. Additionally, it will make us more vulnerable to Russian adventurism. We are already investing too many billions of dollars in Russia which, of course, enabled Russia to carry out or make us in part complicit with the war in Ukraine. We should be independent.

Let us talk about the workers losing their jobs and those five remaining coal-fired plants. There will be little hope for them to remain in that area of the State and find anything to do that pays half as well. Pennsylvania is indeed blessed with bountiful reserves of natural gas that feed into natural gas-powered electricity plants. As companies look to invest in future natural gas facilities, are they going to come to Pennsylvania under the controls and guise of RGGI, or will they go instead to Ohio and West Virginia? The acceleration of Pennsylvania's booming energy industry has been a blessing. Many of our coal and natural gas energy production plants are in economically distressed communities--those areas that were decimated by the loss of manufacturing jobs several decades ago. Counties like Indiana, Fayette, and Montour have seen energy industry jobs provide a lifeline to their communities. We are told by the proponents of RGGI that those who are soon to lose a job will have to find a job elsewhere. Good luck. The uncertainty that comes with that as far as position, location, and pay are incomparable. Not that long ago we were told something similar with the failure of Solyndra, back in 2011, after that company collapsed when it was no longer propped up with millions of dollars from the Federal government.

Immediate job loss will not be the only negative impact of RGGI. Like all taxes, the carbon taxes can be passed onto the hardworking Pennsylvanians who we serve and represent. At a time when inflation is through the roof and energy prices are soaring, this will be catastrophic to so many families. We are

told, at this point now, just with inflation and increased gas tax and costs, people need an additional \$5,000 to live the same level as last year. As we heard in Senate testimony last week, the Independent Fiscal Office projects consumer energy prices will nearly quadruple with this RGGI tax. This carbon tax will go to the consumer, as I already mentioned, as we have seen already in Virginia. Virginia issued a report saying, in RGGI, it is a direct carbon tax on all households and businesses. But at least in Virginia, unlike in Pennsylvania, the governor there had the legislative body vote on it for advise, consent, and approval. There was an actual vote in the General Assembly. In fact, all 11 member States received legislative approval before the State joined.

As we have all witnessed, energy costs in the United States are already up compared to last year. Inflation and this terrible war in Ukraine have compounded the struggles of the lower- and middle-class working families around our State. At this time, we definitely cannot afford to make energy costs higher by entering RGGI. These oil and gas revenues that we may increase going into the Russian coffers will make our world less secure internationally. I remember serving in the Army, being in Lithuania, and having the former Minister of Defense tell me she would prefer to buy Pennsylvania natural gas as opposed to natural gas from any European country. This will take that off the table as far as shoring up our allies overseas with the increased costs. We had a glimpse into what may happen if we further shut down our industry in Pennsylvania.

Back in 2018, there was a particularly cold winter and our friends in New England were running out of fuel to heat their houses, especially in Boston, Massachusetts. Due to a lack of pipelines, they actually brought in a ship from Russia--traveling 4,500 miles--to heat their homes. Instead of turning to Pennsylvania, they turned to Russia, and I think that is unconscionable.

Entering RGGI will forever shut down any idea that Pennsylvania could provide fuel to the New England States and elsewhere, let alone our own population. To counter the growing threat from Moscow, nations like Lithuania and Poland built liquefied natural gas terminals to reduce their dependence on Russian oil and gas. Due to the cost and accessibility right now, most of that LNG is coming from Norway, and, as I mentioned, they are eager to start purchasing that from Pennsylvania in greater amounts. Imports from the United States began back in 2017, but we have a long way to go, and RGGI will forever limit that capability. When you consider the spike in prices here, domestically, to consumers, the job loss of tens of thousands of jobs across the State, the devastation to the communities in Pennsylvania, and the foreign policy implication, RGGI will do far more harm than good to Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, here we are again, rising to disapprove Pennsylvania's entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a unilateral decision that is nothing more than a carbon tax proposal, that will detrimentally change the trajectory of Pennsylvania and our economy. As we learned last week in a hearing on the impacts of RGGI, most experts, including our own Independent Fiscal Office, have ruled that this will raise rates to the tune of \$2 billion over the next 5 years that will then be passed onto the consumer, especially in this day and age with already record-high energy prices. We have also learned

this week, the average wage for a job on one of these so-called "clean energy labor" positions would only be \$16 an hour, compared to the average wage of around \$36 an hour for our energy sector. Yes, this administration wants to raise the wage of fast food employees, yet lower the wages and destroy our building trade sector.

Mr. President, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is nothing but a sham. It suffers from massive shortcomings that will result in irreparable harm to Pennsylvania workers and their families, as well as everyday Pennsylvanians who are actually the ones who are going to be footing this bill for the Governor's last-ditch effort to destroy Pennsylvania's energy sector, where we can produce energy in a safe and effective manner instead of letting China rampantly produce carbon and destroy the atmosphere without any regulations whatsoever. A "no" vote today is a vote of no confidence in Pennsylvania workers, laborers, boilermakers, pipefitters, steamfitters, carpenters, plumbers, and the rest of the building trades and our hardworking men and women throughout Pennsylvania who keep our Commonwealth moving forward. A "no" vote today is a vote for higher unemployment and heating bills, and a direct attack on the manufacturing industry, its workers, and their families.

The Governor wants to bind his own constituents to another unelected governing body that does not even have a headquarters here in Pennsylvania. It does not have a board of directors. They cannot even name the CEO, nor can they tell us what they are going to do with that extra tax money that they will raise from 10 other States mind you. Yet we, the elected body of Pennsylvania, are expected to sit idly by as this outgoing Governor raises rates on his citizens by up to \$400 million a year. A "no" vote today is a vote to impose a carbon tax that hurts hardworking Pennsylvanians, without any proven environmental result or improvement, as power plants will be closed in Pennsylvania and we are forced to import our energy from Ohio, West Virginia, and beyond. We are living in a world where we see in real time the direct results of being dependent on foreign energy. Prices are suffocating families while we have some of the largest energy reserves in the world right underneath our feet. We see now, in Eastern Europe, what happens when nations are dependent on rogue States for their energy needs. RGGI is a risk without any reward.

Thank you, Mr. President. I encourage a "yes" vote.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I stand to oppose the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, otherwise known as the \$800 million RGGI tax. I ask today, how many people have recently suffered sticker shock when they pulled up to the gas pump to fill their tank? How many people find that their weekly or monthly grocery shopping trip brings home fewer, skimpier bags of groceries on the same budget they had always spent? That is because the dollar just cannot keep up with the skyrocketing costs of everyday groceries. Now on top of that, how many families can afford to pay more for their monthly electric utility bills, to the tune of at least \$800 million more? In other words, a 30 percent increase in electric bills. Mr. President, inflation is already putting shackles on family budgets. Why would we want to deliberately add more of a burden to the citizens' pocket-books? Unfortunately, that is exactly what this RGGI tax will do.

Not only will the RGGI tax hurt people's family finances, it will also destroy the jobs of hundreds of Pennsylvania families.

You see, the RGGI tax is just a big swap in where electricity will be produced in the future. It will shift the electric generating jobs to our smart, bordering States that have not joined this compact scheme. Trust me when I say that fossil fuel electric generation will soon be ramping up in Ohio and West Virginia when the RGGI tax kicks in, meaning there will be no net reduction in CO₂ emissions. Mr. President, it is time to protect the pocket-books of Pennsylvania families and Pennsylvania employers who use electricity. It is time to preserve the jobs of Pennsylvania electric generation workers. It is time to put an end to this meaningless \$800 million RGGI tax. Please join me in voting in favor of Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, today I rise in support of this veto override of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative effort. As I stand here, I raise the point of how Governor Wolf has attempted to unilaterally impose a carbon tax. That is right, a tax. A tax he has no constitutional authority to levy on Pennsylvania. Make no mistake, RGGI will negatively impact all Pennsylvanians. Again, this is the decision, the imposition by force of government, by one individual on the people of Pennsylvania. Before any branch of government takes any action, it has a responsibility to ask itself, do I have the authority to take this action? If the answer is "no," they cannot take it. The people of Pennsylvania have left this type of policy decision to the legislature in this State.

I also want to discuss and make plain the impacts that this tax will have on rural Pennsylvanians who make up my district. The hardworking folks in my district cannot shoulder the higher costs of everyday goods. They are making two-thirds the median family income of the rest of the State. My constituents tell me every day that they are struggling to keep their lights on with soaring inflation rates already impacting the costs at the grocery store and gas pump. Well, if anyone in this Chamber thinks that passing a worthless carbon tax--that will do nothing but inflate prices and kill family-sustaining jobs--is a good idea, they are out of touch with reality. They care nothing for my senior citizens and working-class people who have to deal with these rising prices. The Independent Fiscal Office--which, by the way, is nonpartisan--in a joint Senate hearing just last week exposed RGGI for what it is: a tax that will make Pennsylvania less competitive economically, kill jobs, and potentially increase energy costs by nearly \$800 million for consumers. That is a 30 to 40 percent increase in home heating. Again, my Nissan Altima, I just put \$80 in gasoline in the tank. My citizens are already dealing with another government-imposed change on energy prices. Now, Governor Wolf wants to add this on top of it. This tax will hurt the poor especially hard because everybody, absolutely everybody, needs to heat their homes and have energy to cook.

So, who benefits? Well, it is a highly funded group of special interest firms that manufacture products that cannot meet the needs of Pennsylvanians. These firms and their lobbyists have colluded with academics and politicians to create a narrative that is, at best, questionable when confronted by the list of previous scientific predictions going back more than 50 years, over my lifetime, that have utterly failed to materialize. *Time Magazine*,

June 24, 1974, "telltale signs are everywhere--from the unexpected persistence and thickness of the pack ice in the waters around Iceland to the southward migration of a warmth-loving creature like the armadillo from the Midwest." Talking about another ice age. A Brown University study--they had a conference--the main conclusion of this meeting was that, "a global deterioration of climate, by order of magnitude larger than any hitherto experienced by civilized mankind, is a very real possibility and indeed may be due very soon. The cooling has natural cause." They also predicted that it was manmade. Did either one of those two predictions come about? Absolutely not.

This is one I love, when the narrative started changing from global cooling and the coming ice age to the coming global warming. This is from *Salon*. (*Reading:*)

While doing research 12 or 13 years ago, I met Jim Hansen, the scientist who in 1988 predicted the greenhouse effect before Congress. I went over to the window with him and looked out on Broadway in New York City and said, "If what you're saying about the greenhouse effect is true, is anything going to look different down there in 20 years?" He looked for a while and was quiet and didn't say anything for a couple of seconds. Then he said, "Well, there will be more traffic." I, of course, didn't think he heard the question right. Then he explained, "The West Side Highway [which runs along the Hudson River] will be under water. And there will be tape across the windows across the street because of high winds. And the same birds won't be there. The trees in the median strip will change."

He went on to all these other dire predictions. He went along with the narrative at the time, in 1989, that we would have no ice cap on the polar ice cap, and that Greenland would be devoid of any ice. This was in 1989, and they were talking in about 10 years. None of that has come true.

There is a list of others that have gone on. The chairman explained very well some of them, but I go back to the Roman Warm Period around A.D. 200, the Medieval Warm Period from A.D. 950-1250. Greenland was called Greenland for a reason. It was green. It did not have an ice cap on it. Leif Erikson and his father, Erik the Red, had generations of people raising livestock, they had wine, they were growing hops there. Those fields take decades, generations, to mature. Yet, you know what did not happen? All this prediction of flooding that our scientists have brought out. Constantinople, Nice, Marseille, Palermo, Alexandria, they were not under 20 feet of water. The idiocy that has been portrayed in these, quote, "scientific studies" and these dire predictions is evident on its face. There is no history of any of those ports being under water during the Medieval or Roman Warm Period.

Back to the impact. In my district, natural gas and the prosperity it has brought to numerous families has been nothing short of a godsend. Pennsylvania is the second-largest producer of natural gas and the third-largest producer of energy in the U.S. It is nothing short of criminal to destabilize the energy market and put people out of work in an industry that can use its natural resources to strengthen not only our own economy but the U.S. economy. The union workers who are living in my district and working in places like Homer City and Shelocta, you are going to devastate, Governor Wolf, their livelihoods, families, and school districts because the tax base will not be there. You are going to devastate local government. I pray that the Members of this body make the correct decision today and listen to the countless testifiers and people who have written, called, or emailed our

offices over the last few weeks and months, begging us to take action against RGGI and the tyrannical, unilateral actions of one individual who has attempted to put it into action. I will be an affirmative vote today on the bill and stand with all of the Pennsylvanians who will be negatively impacted by His Excellency's Commonwealth-killing carbon tax. I will stand and embrace my elderly who are on a fixed income, my working-class people who are working in those plants, the people who are working in other jobs and cannot afford because of where are median family incomes are. I encourage a "yes" vote. I strongly encourage a "yes" vote, because if you do not, you really do not care--I correct myself--I cannot see how anybody who does not vote to override this can have any compassion for the people of our districts.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, why does the answer always seem to be to raise a tax, levy a fee, or impose some type of toll on the hardworking backs of Pennsylvania residents? Honestly, why? Because it is easy and really does not require much creative thinking? RGGI will destroy our economy. Period. This country is upside down. The highest inflation we have seen in decades, no respect on the foreign stage, supply chain issues that are cataclysmic, gas prices at levels never seen before. So, what is the answer? Let us pay more, because radical environmentalists see this as the way.

Here are the facts, and they came to light at a recent hearing. CO₂ emissions in Pennsylvania have declined 42 percent in the past 12 years, versus 47 percent in the 10 RGGI States. That is without any of the overhead. I know that has been mentioned before by one of my colleagues. That is without the overhead; on our own; within 5 percent. If you translate that out to actual CO₂ emissions, it breaks down to 72.3 million tons versus 79.6 million tons of CO₂ emissions. So, the 79.6 million tons are all 10 of the RGGI States combined, versus 72 in just Pennsylvania. There has been a lot of speak that we are not doing anything. I think those facts speak to the efforts that Pennsylvania has been taking. We do not need more regulation or more overburdensome taxes.

How did we get to this point? Every other State of those 10 that are in RGGI did it through their general assemblies. Not here. Pennsylvania does not need that, right? That was a unilateral action. Does that concern anyone? Honestly, does it concern anyone? Because you can bet that if the tide or the tables were turned, the other side of the aisle would be up in arms. The travesty. How could this happen? We are sent here by our constituents: the constituent who works in the mines, putting their life on the line to pull coal from the Earth; the constituent who works at the power plant, ensuring that we have the energy to power our schools, hospitals, and homes; the constituent whose job is ancillary to this industry--and believe me, there are many, and they are far-reaching. A "no" vote on this resolution puts them out of work because we know they will close. That has been evident. Before you vote, ask yourself: Do you support the radical environmentalists intent on destroying our economy, or do you support your constituents, the companies that employ with the family-sustaining jobs? If you vote "no," you are turning your back on them. Stop putting Pennsylvania behind. Stop pulling us back. Vote for our Commonwealth. Save it from this oppressive action. Vote in favor of this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, as chair of the Committee on Labor and Industry, RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, strikes a fatal blow to both of them: labor and industry. It truly is a shell game. It is a shell game when it comes to jobs. When we hear people say, well, we are going to eliminate tens of 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 or carpenters and more--all of these hardworking individuals who have trained long and hard and love Pennsylvania. They are raising their families here, paying their taxes here, and creating things right here in Pennsylvania. We will be losing about 22,000 excellent jobs. More of the shell game. Some say we are going to be producing lots of green jobs for them. Really? 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 do what again? To use a squeegee on some solar panels in a field that used to produce crops or livestock as former Pennsylvania farmland? By the way, solar panels bought from China and made from fossil fuels. I do not think so. We are going to lose those families, we are going to lose that tax base and skilled workforce. Because who in this economy--that has been decimated by Governor Wolf's disastrous COVID-19 policies--combined with skyrocketing inflation--the highest in 40 years--and threats of energy security is going to stay right here in Pennsylvania with the threat of this job-killing initiative and its devastating consequences? The shell game includes emissions and climate change. Everyone wants a clean environment and their children to be raised in a clean and safe place. We want clean water, clean air, we all do. 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, wide open arms to all of our energy industry, its workers, and their families. In Ohio they are building a half dozen natural gas plants along the Pennsylvania border because Ohio does not have the RGGI tax. You know what? 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 the air for my constituents dirtier, because those power plants from across the border are going to be putting that air into the environment and it is going to blow right here into Pennsylvania. So how is it going to help my constituents? That is not helping the environment. On top of that, China, right now, is building 43 coal-fired power plants, because they are not relying on green energy, they are not great stewards of the environment, and anyone who has paid attention in fourth grade science class knows that we all share the same atmosphere on the planet. So what happens in China is going to eventually come here. So by encouraging our energy to go to places that do not have the same high standards as Pennsylvania is doing the opposite of what RGGI is intended to do. As a matter of fact, Governor Wolf's own modeling confirms that 99 percent of all CO₂ reduction from the forced and premature closing of nearly a third of Pennsylvania's generation capacity will be offset by increased generation and emissions from fossil fuel plants in our upwind neighboring States. That is called "leakage." How is making Pennsylvania less energy secure helping the environment? It is doing the opposite. Do you know that Pennsylvania

imports more than \$1.7 billion of products from Russia? More than \$755 million of those imports are mineral fuels. We are actually importing products that we have right here under our feet in Pennsylvania from Russia. Let that sink in.

The other shell game, 11 other States are part of this. Guess what? They do not produce energy like 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. One of the largest coal-fired plants in Pennsylvania, Homer City, has a direct transmission line that feeds into New York State, which along with New Jersey are huge proponents of Pennsylvania joining RGGI. Of course they are, because they take the energy we generate. Pennsylvania can and has been a great steward of the environment. Entering into a Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative literally is a bait and switch. We will be providing energy for States that do not want to bear the burden and cost of it. Our constituents, the people of 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. For one minute do we think that entering into this unconstitutional initiative is going to give us the ability to attract that business back to Pennsylvania? Absolutely not. It is impossible. For some reason the administration is doing its level best to shut the doors to any investment in Pennsylvania and to 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 coming 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. You think they are going to want to stick around and invest hundreds of millions of dollars when Pennsylvania is doing their level best to chase everyone out? I do not think so.

Our duty as legislators is to protect our citizens, their livelihoods, their health and safety. RGGI does none of this. It truly does the opposite. It is a shell game, a very dangerous shell game. Pennsylvania and our coal and natural gas can be the beacon of safety, security, and energy independence and freedom for the world. At this very moment, Pennsylvania could increase its natural gas production by 400 percent. We can and should forever stay energy independent. Stop the nonsense. Let Pennsylvania, our nation, and the world know that this legislative body is going to stand up for them. We will protect our energy, security, and independence as well as protecting our environment. We reduced our carbon footprint significantly over the past decade, and we can do more, but only with investment and innovation. But we cannot, at this volatile time in history with the real threats of global consequences of energy dependence, allow Pennsylvanians' energy industry to be hijacked by misguided virtue signal to environmentalist groups that want to just shut everything down without any replacement in place. This is not the time to be weak. It is a time to be energy strong and independent. I implore each and every one of my colleagues to cast an affirmative vote on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, we are here today because Governor Wolf has chosen a go-it-alone approach and to enter

into this interstate compact. Instead of listening to the people's elected representatives in the House and the Senate--which historically has approved every interstate compact that Pennsylvania has been in--he has chosen to use the regulatory process to bring about these actions. We are here today because the Governor is willing, through his unilateral actions, to cede the power of Pennsylvania's energy-making decisions and policies to 11 other States, 11 other States that are not major energy producers like Pennsylvania. Eleven other States, many of which have refused to participate in the energy infrastructure domestically needed to power and heat our homes, hospitals, and schools throughout the region. Instead, many of these 11 other States have chosen to fuel their homes, hospitals, and schools by having Russian oil and gas tankers sitting in Boston Harbor.

We are here today to protect Pennsylvania citizens. Now more than ever, with inflationary costs and the pinch that they are putting on household budgets, for anyone to think that a 30 to 40 percent increase in energy costs is in our citizens' best interests would be stunning. But let us think about that a little more, because often we think about increases in utility costs no further than what it means to our household electric bill, or whether it is to your business in terms of the business energy bill that you get. But when you see a 30 to 40 percent increase in energy costs, that is a 30 to 40 percent energy cost increase to hospitals, which directly will have an increase in cost to healthcare. That 30 to 40 percent energy increase is going to be applied to institutions of higher education, which directly will lead to higher costs to those institutions and higher tuition costs. When you talk about the rising cost of food, what sustains us, a 30 to 40 percent increase in every single element of our food supply chain will see a dramatic increase in the cost of that sustenance that we rely on. How anyone can look at a policy such as this and think that it is in the best interest of the people of this State--I can find no other word than "wrongheaded."

But there is something bigger at play, Mr. President, and that is that Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness is at stake. It is no secret that we have lagged economically behind many other States. It is no secret that we have lagged in terms of demographic growth compared to many other States. Ten straight censuses where we have lagged, 10 straight censuses where we have resulted in reduced congressional seats, which reduces our clout with the Federal government. How is a policy like this designed to grow Pennsylvania, to make us more competitive, to grow and get families to root here, and future generations to root here? But what is most puzzling about all this is, what are we getting in return for an \$800 million carbon tax? To see, over a 10-year period, less than a 1 percent reduction in CO₂. So we are going to put our families and their households, our job creators, and the cost of everything at stake by 30 to 40 percent, for a less than 1 percent reduction in CO₂ over 10 years. That is a horrible investment. When you really think about it, 22,000 jobs that are predicted to be lost when RGGI is implemented, \$7.7 billion a year in economic loss, for a less than 1 percent reduction in CO₂.

For the people of Pennsylvania, we are doing everything in our power to save you from this wrongheaded policy decision that will greatly impact the affordability of energy in this State, the cost to everything that you do, and the reliability of our electric grid. I would encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, food, housing, and energy insecurity and the inadequate minimum wage--all significant issues that many in this Chamber look and search day in and day out for solutions. Well, Mr. President, there is a universal solution to all of those insecurities and inadequacies. It is a family-sustaining job. J-O-B-S, jobs, Mr. President. It is the four-letter word that should be tattooed across the forehead of each and every one of us. It should be the preeminent reason that we walk on the floor of this Chamber every single day. To preserve, protect, defend, and grow family-sustaining jobs. Mr. President, in this case, as we consider the override of this veto, a vote "yes" is to preserve, protect, and defend blue-collar, family-sustaining, union-wage jobs that come from our energy sector.

Now, Mr. President, if that is not enough of a reason to vote "yes" to override this veto, then perhaps enough of a reason would be to protect every consumer of electricity in this Commonwealth from paying higher bills. Whether you accept the Governor's number of \$410 million, or you accept the Independent Fiscal Office number of \$800 million, what is indisputable is--even the Governor's top bureaucrat, Secretary McDonnell, acknowledged--that the consumers of electricity will pay the burden of this RGGI tax. And I cannot think of a more regressive tax to place on the people of Pennsylvania than to make their electricity more expensive to keep their lights on, keep them warm in the winter, and keep them cool in the summer. Increasing the cost of electricity only makes food, housing, and energy insecurity worse, and it makes the minimum wage that much less relevant. But if you do not want to vote to override the veto to allow the consumers of electricity to avoid an \$800 million increase in their bills, and if you do not want to override the veto to save family-sustaining jobs in our energy sector, then maybe you should consider it for a few other reasons.

Now, Mr. President, when the Governor began this process 3 years ago, he promised an economic transition for affected communities. The district I represent is by far and away the most affected community in this Commonwealth, and I can tell you firsthand that he has failed in that economic transition. But I will tell you, Mr. President, the Governor has succeeded mightily in accelerating a different kind of transition, a political transition. Because let me tell you, the working families in this Commonwealth who thought my friends on the other side of the aisle had their back, they are getting their eyes opened. Not only is it the membership, but so is the leadership of those who represent the trade unions in this Commonwealth are understanding who in this Chamber is on their side, and that is what this vote is about.

Mr. President, I thought it was interesting--in PoliticsPA, just a few weeks ago, there was an article. The headline reads: "[Lieutenant Governor] Fetterman: It's Crucial We Connect with Rural PA," and in that article is a quote--

POINT OF ORDER

Senator COSTA. Mr. President.

Senator PITTMAN. It is about closing the gap--

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, point of order, Mr. President.

Senator PITTMAN. --and having a better, fuller understanding--

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, please respond to the point of order.

Senator PITTMAN. --of what our communities need.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President.

Senator PITTMAN. I will answer what our communities need, Mr. President.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, please acknowledge my point of order.

Senator PITTMAN. They need family-sustaining, blue-collar, union-wage jobs.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman, please; please; please yield--

Senator PITTMAN. That is what they need.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, please acknowledge my point of order.

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

Senator COSTA. Thank you. Mr. President, the gentleman is bringing up you in person, who may be casting a vote in this matter, and using your name as an individual, which is something that is not permitted in this Chamber, and I ask that everything he just said be retracted from the record.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I am reading a published article in PoliticsPA, and in that article there is a quote, and I am reading this quote and I am helping provide an answer because it is relevant to the issue at hand.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President--

Senator PITTMAN. The quote is, "It's about closing the gap--

Senator COSTA. --your name cannot be permitted to be stated; any Member's name should not be permitted to be mentioned in debate. Your name in particular. You may be casting a deciding vote on this matter, we do not know. At the end of the day, you should not be referenced in this matter. He should not be using the article that references you by name. That is the point of order I am making and asking you to sustain that. Now, we sat here for hours upon hours today listening to the argument about what they feel is the right thing to do and heard words like the ridiculously "left wing radical people," inferring to Members in our Caucus as "radicals."

POINT OF ORDER

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, point of order.

Senator COSTA. The conversations that--

Senator PITTMAN. Point of order, Mr. President.

Senator COSTA. --took place in the committee meeting where the sexist remarks were there.

Senator PITTMAN. Answer the point of order, Mr. President.

Senator COSTA. This is ongoing and needs to stop.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will be at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, after discussion with the Majority Leader and the President pro tempore, I withdraw my point of order. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, to quote an article from a prominent elected official in this Commonwealth, "It's about

closing the gap and having a better, fuller understanding of what these counties need," in reference to rural counties. Well, Mr. President, I do not typically make a habit of extinguishing political opponents when they are on fire, but in this case, I will give some free advice. If my friends on the other side of the aisle want to understand what rural counties need and want to help bridge that gap, I will give you an answer. What we need are jobs. What we need are family-sustaining jobs. And what we have in our communities, Mr. President, are blue-collar, family-sustaining, union-wage jobs. They come from the energy sector. That is where they come from. When we see policies pursued by this administration that pose a direct threat to our livelihoods in our communities, yes, we do recoil and disconnect. But, if you want to make a connection with rural Pennsylvania, you can do it right here, right now, you can meet the moment by voting to override this Governor's veto. That will send a message to rural Pennsylvania, a very clear message, that you care about what our communities need: it is jobs.

Now, Mr. President, I have heard some of my friends reference some areas of corporate America that think it makes sense for us to enter RGGI. I find that to be a fascinating argument. Why is corporate America not over in China, telling China to reduce their carbon emissions? Because that is where their goods and products come from. If these elements of corporate America really gave a damn about our environment, they would bring their products back here, to the United States. But, they cannot because they need the cheap labor and energy and an environment where there are no regulations for labor or environmental controls so they can sell their products cheaply. If they really care about our environment, they will bring their products here to the United States where we use our God-given resources responsibly. That, Mr. President, is the reality. I never would have thought I would hear some of my friends on the other side of the aisle embrace corporate America on an issue such as this, while turning their backs on the hardworking, middle-class, union families in this Commonwealth.

You know, Mr. President, our energy independence is our national security, and our national security is what allows us to light the lamp of liberty for the entire world. The God-given natural resources beneath our feet were put here because our Creator put them beneath our feet, for our responsible use, to ensure our energy independence, our national security, and that the lamp of liberty remains lit for the entire world to see. What we see in Eastern Europe right now is a perfect example of why that lamp of liberty needs to burn more brightly than ever. Mr. President, vote to override this veto. Say "yes" to addressing food, housing, and energy insecurity. Say "yes" to addressing the minimum wage by supporting maximum-wage, blue-collar, family-sustaining, union jobs. Say "yes" to energy independence, our national security, and to keeping the lamp of liberty burning brightly for the rest of the free world. Say "yes" to overriding this Governor's veto.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to urge a "no" vote on the motion to override the Governor's veto of Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution No. 1. Underscoring what scientists have been reporting and warning for so many

years now, a *New York Times* article today begins with the following paragraph, and I read from the article. (*Reading:*)

Nations are not doing nearly enough to prevent global warming from increasing to dangerous levels within the lifetimes of most people on Earth today, according to a new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of researchers convened by the United Nations. Limiting the devastation won't be easy, but it also isn't impossible if countries act now, the report says.

Pennsylvania is not a country, but Pennsylvania emits a full 1 percent of Earth's greenhouse gasses. That is much more than many countries. Understanding our responsibility to reduce carbon emissions for the people of the world and the people of Pennsylvania, 75 percent of Pennsylvania citizens support joining RGGI. I do understand the concerns, especially regarding job loss, and I am confident that we stand together to do everything we can to support Pennsylvania workers, families, and communities in the transition to a clean energy future. RGGI revenue, as outlined in Senate Bill No. 15, will generate the resources to do just that.

Time is of the essence in our fight to stop climate change. It is time to move RGGI forward, and then it is time to quickly turn our full attention and collective efforts towards supporting additional innovations and legislation that will lead Pennsylvania to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. I look forward to working together with each of you to take effective, timely actions to stop climate change for the sake of all Pennsylvanians: our workers, families, communities, and especially for our children and our grandchildren. Again, I urge a "no" vote on this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, it has been a very lively debate, and an important debate, up to this moment; and if I could, at this point in time, take a little different perspective to this debate. Obviously these issues are enormous--whether we are talking about our environment, energy prices, jobs--I cannot think of many more important issues than what we are dealing with. I think both sides of the aisle have done a decent job articulating this debate. That is what we are here for, to have debate and to talk about the issues that we believe in and are so passionate about and believe are important. Normally when I come up to speak, I am here to speak on behalf of my constituents--the 260,000-plus people from Centre County, Mifflin County, Juniata County, and parts of Huntingdon County--and that is what I normally would speak to, and certainly those constituents I represent would want me to vote "yes" here today, which I plan to do.

But let me speak to my other constituency, the 49 other Members of the Pennsylvania Senate. You all were very kind and generous enough to elect me as the President pro tempore three times. First on an interim basis, then in the last 2 years. So I take that constituency very seriously as well, because as the institutional officer, it is my job to represent the Senate. It is my job to make sure that the Senate operates in a way that is appropriate, and that is very important. Because debate is what we are about, this is what the public process is about: debating the issues; getting to a final product, hopefully; and moving big issues forward over a period of time. So I take the role of the institutional officer

extremely serious, and I believe it is my job to protect the Senate of Pennsylvania. Because whether we agree on every issue or not, we are all Members of the Senate of Pennsylvania, and our voices need to be heard. It does not matter what part of the State you are in, it does not matter whether Republican, Democrat, Independent, your voice needs to be heard, we need to have healthy debate, hopefully we get to compromise and hopefully we will be able to move issues forward. I would argue that this bill that we are talking about today, this veto override, represents a danger to the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Now, most people back home could probably care less about the Senate of Pennsylvania--and I get that and I understand that--but let me tell you why I believe it is important. When the executive branch reaches into the authority of the legislative branch, to me, as a representative of the legislative branch, that is a problem. Certainly, this issue is of significant importance, one that we should debate, one that we should--look, whether you are Republican, Democrat, rural, urban, or suburban Pennsylvanian, we all have a stake in our environment. Whether you are a Pennsylvanian, whether you are from another part of this country, whether you are from around the world, we only have one environment. So that environment is crucial to our future. It is crucial to the existence of the human race, and so we should all take that extremely serious. So it is certainly understandable that passions would lead people in certain directions. But it is also important from our Founding Fathers, who set up this system of checks and balances. Checks and balances that force us to work together to get things accomplished. I used to work as a staff person for United States Senator Rick Santorum. The old joke was, in Washington, D.C., that the House of Representatives--which are smaller districts, run every 2 years--is there to do the will of the people; the U.S. Senate--which is larger, obviously statewide, and it has 6-year terms--is there to make sure the will of people is not done. That was a joke, but that was the process. Our Founding Fathers set up all these checks and balances so that we would move slowly, that we would not have tyranny and quick changeover, that everything that was a good idea would eventually get there. It can be frustrating, it can be so frustrating. I know the Senator from Lehigh County and myself, the chair of the Committee on Appropriations, we worked on public pension reform for a decade. Even with a Republican governor, Republican House, Republican Senate, we still could not get it done; it was so frustrating. We kept coming back until we finally struck a deal with this Governor, and we got a public pension reform done that was not everything that I wanted, it was probably more than what the Governor wanted to give, but, more importantly, it was better than the previous law. We moved the issue forward for the people of Pennsylvania by taking 60 percent of the risk off the table. So I get and understand the frustration of the desire to circumvent the process.

Let us understand this. Us moving into the regional greenhouse alliance, unilaterally, by the Governor's dictation, is circumventing the process, it is circumventing the legislature, the people's house. This is the people's house, this is where our constituents come to. To Democrat Members, Republican Members, they come to us. I know they might call the Governor's Office, but with all due respect, I am not criticizing the Governor, the Governor is not going to call back millions of people, right? They come to us when they are frustrated. They come to us and say, here is my problem, here is what I need. We saw that more

than ever during the pandemic when all of our constituents were calling, ringing our phones off the hook, and I get the frustration to say, well, you know, this is just easier this way. It is just easier to get this done because I am frustrated, I cannot get to a compromise, and so, therefore, I am just going to do it. I would argue to all of us, whether it is a Republican governor, Democrat governor, we cannot stand for that, we cannot allow for that. We have many environmental multi-state compacts. We have the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission, every one of those was passed by the legislature, signed by the Governor. When you allow political expediency to circumvent the process that has been laid out through statute, you are taking freedoms away from the people of Pennsylvania. We are representatives, we are all Senators, statehouse Members--203 over there--we are the people's voice. When you circumvent us and you say, no, you are not going to be involved in this, that is not healthy for democracy. That has probably been the cornerstone of this administration, and on numerous occasions through executive order--every time a governor, Republican or Democrat, does an executive order, that governor is saying the legislature does not matter, I am just going to do this. Look, I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have criticized us for doing a lot of constitutional amendments, which I would argue is not healthy either. We are trying to legislate through constitutional amendment because we are frustrated with the Governor.

So my plea here today is, we can get there. The Senator from Philadelphia and I came in together, he is not here right now, and we are both legacies. We both were sworn in in 1999, he replaced his father, I replaced my father. Even though we come from completely different parts of Pennsylvania, we have been great friends over the years and we have gotten along. The other gentleman from Philadelphia, we chaired three committees together and never had a cross moment at any point in time during that period. The Senator from Northampton County, there has been no more independent person fighting for her district than the Senator from Northampton County and sometimes siding with us on big issues. The Senator from Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, we probably had one of the most difficult moments on the swearing-in day where I would not allow him to be seated, but yet we remained friends because we understood where we were coming from. My plea here today is, do not do this, do not allow this to happen. You are circumventing freedom. You are circumventing the process. You are saying that the Senate of Pennsylvania does not matter, and that diminishes all of us. I am sure the gentleman from Indiana County, who has led this charge for us, and the gentlewoman from Westmoreland County will sit down tomorrow and do what we can to work together to get to some of the concerns that are being brought forward.

When Ed Rendell was governor, we passed Growing Greener II, we passed the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act with a Democrat governor and Republican legislature, we got there--look, I know I am getting criticized for some of that right now--but we got there because that is how we govern, we govern together. I just believe that every time for political expedience, whether it be at the State level or the Federal level, that we circumvent the process to get what we want to accomplish, because we think it is so important. I would stand here and make the same argument if we had a Republican governor. If we had a

Republican governor, as I did when we did the shutdowns, when we tried to end the Governor's emergency declaration. It was not about what he was trying to do, what he believed to be in the best interest of the people of Pennsylvania. It was because we believed it was not his authority to do it unilaterally. We govern together, that is freedom, that is what our Founding Fathers put together for us. Republicans and Democrats working together, figuring out a way to get to a final product.

So I ask all of you--and I am not naive to know where this vote might end up--but I just thought I would bring a different perspective, for all of our constituents, do not tell them the Senate does not matter; the Senate does matter. We matter and we can get together, as was shown in the past, if we come with a true heart to get on policies that will improve our environment, create jobs, lower energy costs. I do not think those are mutually exclusive issues. I just do not. I may be as guilty as the next person talking past one another. Certainly, I am sure I am, but this is not good for the Senate of Pennsylvania, and I would say that if it was a Republican governor. Maybe in a few months we will have a Republican governor, and I will not be here in the Senate, but I hope you stand up for the Senate. I hope you stand up and say, no, sorry, you might be the governor of our party, but it is wrong. There is a process, there is a process to how we get to an end game, and that process is as important as the ultimate result because that is representative of democracy.

I would ask you again--I get the politics behind this and it is hard, and Lord knows, we have been driven by politics, you have been driven by politics, I get it. I get that most people back home could care less about the Senate of Pennsylvania, and I get that, too. But I argue we should. We should because this is democracy; this is freedom. When we give it over to unilateral power of one individual--well-intended or not--it is not good for freedom; it is not good for democracy. I ask you to give it one last thought. It is time to vote for the Senate of Pennsylvania. It is time to vote for democracy. It is time to vote for freedom. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, this RGGI issue has been percolating for months. It is a very important issue to Pennsylvania, as we have all heard and been talking about it for months. I was a little surprised when I visited the Scranton Chamber of Commerce and they listed this as one of their top priorities. It does not just affect one area of the State, it affects all of us. So, today, I stand to implore our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in standing up for Pennsylvania, and not stand by and permit the Governor to unilaterally impose a tax on our Commonwealth's energy resources, thereby increasing the cost of electricity by \$800 million a year at a time when inflation and gas prices are skyrocketing, and with consideration of what is happening around the world.

A vote for RGGI, to let it move forward as it is today if we do not override this veto, is a vote to increase Pennsylvania's electric bill by 30 percent, eliminate 22,000 Pennsylvania jobs, and increase the cost of everyday products, with no significant environmental benefits. Our jobs will move across the State border to West Virginia and Ohio, which are not participating in this anti-fossil fuel agenda. They will continue to produce, while Pennsylvania's production and jobs will decrease substantially.

This should be a slam dunk, a bipartisan effort to override the Governor's unilateral decision for Pennsylvania to join RGGI. It should be done on behalf of protecting these jobs and the wallets of our Commonwealth families and the businesses that employ our families.

As legislators, we should all want a voice in this decision with the opportunity to represent our constituents. There is no other State in the nation positioned as well as Pennsylvania to rebound out of the economic downturn due to COVID-19, but we cannot do that by raising taxes on energy. The end result will be that end users, us, will pay increased electricity bills. We should be taking advantage of our State's greatest assets towards greater economic prosperity, and a big part of that is our natural resources. By a margin of 2 to 1, Pennsylvania voters oppose the RGGI regulations. A majority of Pennsylvania's energy region, including the Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, oppose RGGI, and this poll was taken before the Independent Fiscal Office determined this was an \$800 million per year tax on electricity that will be pushed forward to Pennsylvania electricity consumers.

We are, in Pennsylvania, the second-largest producer of natural gas, and third-largest producer of energy in the nation. There is no reason why we should not be helping not only our Commonwealth but our nation become energy independent. We have the resources to do that, and we should not let fear from the activist environmentalists result in actions that are unproven to do anything substantial to reduce our carbon footprint. Again, I implore my colleagues across the aisle to join us today. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Yudichak, Senator Gebhard, and Senator DiSanto.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Muth and Senator Boscola.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests legislative leaves for Senator Yudichak, Senator Gebhard, and Senator DiSanto.

Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Muth and Senator Boscola.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

And the question recurring,

Shall the Senate reconsider and agree to pass the resolution, the objections of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator K. WARD 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 Corman	Langerholc Laughlin	Robinson Scavello	Yaw Yudichak
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NAY-17

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

Less than a constitutional two-thirds majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 1058 and HB 1184.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

10:00 A.M.	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Bills No. 1083 and 1162)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:00 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider Senate Bills No. 24, 750, 1037 and 1180; and House Bill No. 1615)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
11:30 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider the nomination for Small Business Advocate, NazAarah Sabree) C A N C E L L E D	Room 461 Main Capitol
11:30 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on Senate Bill No. 982; and House Bill No. 2044)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
12:00 P.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 110, 118, 1040, 1172 and 1179)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
12:30 P.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 907, 960, 1032 and 1181)	Room 461 Main Capitol

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 358, 797, 881, 962, 991 and 1043; and House Bill No. 1184) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

9:30 A.M. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bill No. 1038; and Senate Resolution No. 229) Room 461 Main Capitol

10:00 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 959, 1018, 1122 and 1166; and House Bill No. 1614) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

10:00 A.M. TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 145, 1094 and 1186) Room 461 Main Capitol

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

10:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (public hearing on housing issues) Independence Visitor Center 599 Market St. 1 N. Independ. Mall West Philadelphia

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today because it is 5,748 days since this Commonwealth's legislature last passed a raise in our embarrassingly low minimum wage. Last month, Mr. President, I, along with likely the majority of my colleagues here, watched President Biden deliver his 2022 State of the Union Address. During the historic address, we heard President Biden speak about Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, our country's continued COVID-19 response, and the current state of the economy. But one crucial part of the address deserves to be front and center, Mr. President, and that was President Biden's call to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. That call is not a part of the far left agenda either, Mr. President. According to a recent Pew study, more than 62 percent of all Americans support raising the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Mr. President, when the minimum wage was established in 1938, it was just \$0.25 per hour. For the first 3 decades, our Federal minimum wage kept pace with inflation and productivity growth. Between 1938-68, our minimum wage grew from \$0.25 an hour to \$1.60 an hour. That is a 540 percent increase over 30 years, which kept the minimum wage on pace with the productivity of workers. It makes sense that workers be compensated for the value they add to a company, and productivity is a straightforward assessment of input to output. But, what does that mean for us today, Mr. President? It means that if the Federal minimum wage had grown at the same pace as productivity, our minimum wage today would be \$27 an hour. Yet here we are fighting over if workers deserve a \$15 minimum wage while paying them \$7.25. It is far past time that we raise our minimum wage; \$7.25 is an embarrassment, Mr. President. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 12. We must do more for our Commonwealth's low earners and finally raise our minimum wage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the Chair.

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

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the month of April as Autism Acceptance Month in Pennsylvania. As a former public school teacher with a background in special education, this is an issue that is near and dear to my heart. About 1 in 54 American children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, which is identified by a range of conditions that may impact how individuals behave, communicate, interact, and learn. Most of us know someone who has autism. Awareness is knowing that they may have different abilities and different strengths. Acceptance is actively including people with autism in activities and helping them build a fuller sense of community and connection to others. Acceptance is treating everyone with respect and empowering them to succeed in school, work, and life. Acceptance is ensuring that individuals with autism know that they have a place in our communities, schools, and workplaces; they belong here and are valued for their different contributions and perspectives.

Please join me in recognizing April as Autism Acceptance Month in Pennsylvania. Let us work together toward creating a more vibrant, inclusive, and healthier world for all people on the autism spectrum and their families, and let us thank all of the educators, professionals, and community programs that are working to ensure all Pennsylvanians with autism are accepted, engaged, and thriving in our communities.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, today I rise to remember the lives lost of three brave souls of the Pittsburgh Police Department 13 years ago: Officer Paul Scullo, Officer Stephen Mayhle, and Officer Eric Kelly. At 7 a.m., Officers Scullo and Mayhle were called to a domestic disturbance in the Stanton Heights neighborhood of Pittsburgh, a call like any other. Officers Scullo and Mayhle were savagely murdered while trying to help. Officer Kelly, who had just ended his shift and was on his way home, heard the incident over the radio and decided to respond. He was shot while trying to rescue his fellow officers, but was still able to call for further backup. Mr. President, these heroes were just regular citizens like you and I, regular citizens who heard the call to serve their country, city, community, and each other. They did not know what was waiting for them behind the door; they did not know it would be their last act on Earth. They went ahead anyways because they took an oath to protect and serve their communities. Paul Scullo was 36 years old and a veteran of 1 1/2 years on the force; Stephen Mayhle was 29 years old with 2 years on the force, a wife, and 2 young daughters; Eric Kelly, a Marine Corps veteran, was 41 years old with 14 years on the force, and left behind a wife and 3 daughters. April 4, 2009, the second-worst day for police shootings in the United States after September 11. These three men stood together, fell together, and lest we forget.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I stand before my colleagues today to discuss a topic that seems to be on the rise: book bans. You may think it is silly, and to be quite honest, it is. But in recent months, book bans have risen across the country and even here in our Commonwealth. Let us face it, book bans are just a part of a larger conversation to restrict learning in our schools. If you check the list of the most commonly challenged and banned books from the American Library Association, many of them are actually required reading in schools. Novels such as *Of Mice and Men* and *Brave New World* are just a few of the books that have been challenged or successfully banned. It is particularly alarming to me because those are two books that I was required to read in school myself. Many of these books tackle explicit or harsh content, which means difficult conversations to have with young people. But, by having these conversations, we are educating our young people on the more accurate history of our country. However, if we continue to restrict this content from our children, we are becoming further desensitized to today's issues and our country's history. So, what is everyone so afraid of? I will give you a few examples.

The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood, is a dystopian thriller set in the near future, New England, in a patriarchal, white supremacist, and totalitarian State known as the Republic of Gilead. Under the Republic of Gilead, fertile women known as "handmaids" are forced into sexual slavery to reproduce for high-ranking men known as "commanders." The novel explores themes of subjugated women in a patriarchal society, loss of female agency and individuality, and suppression of women's reproductive rights. Sound familiar? In the Pulitzer Prize-winning *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee, we venture down to Maycomb, Alabama, during the Great Depression. Inspired by events that took place during Harper Lee's own childhood, the novel confronts serious issues such as rape, racial inequality, and gender roles in the Deep South. However, this final one is perhaps the most ironic of them all. In Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, we dive into another dystopian future where books are outlawed and firemen burn any books that are found. Our main character, Guy Montag, is a fireman who becomes disillusioned with the very job he was hired to do, eventually quitting his job and committing to preserve literature and cultural works. Let us face it, book bans never end well, and, actually, they have proven to be very unpopular. In a recent poll with *CBS News*, more than 8 in 10 people believe that books should not be banned from schools, especially if they are discussing race and history in the United States. By banning books that teach these concepts, we become more and more desensitized to our own history and are essentially telling marginalized communities that their history does not matter. No, not every book is right for everyone, but we will never know if we continue to censor specific books and explicit content for our young people. So let us put these absurd political tactics aside and get back to passing comprehensive legislation for the people of this Commonwealth. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I think it is appropriate to make sure that we do not lose sight of the moment in the context of all of our other debates and our other conversations of what this day is. Today, April 4, 2022, is the unfortunate 54th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. If you will, Mr. President, please allow me to briefly read from the

King Institute, Stanford University, on their landing page: "At 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, 4 April 1968, Martin Luther King was shot dead while standing on a balcony outside his second-floor room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee." He was pronounced dead about an hour later. He was assassinated by James Earl Ray. One of this country's, one of this world's, shining lights taken from us far too soon, far too young, on a mission and a journey far too important. Unfortunately, that mission, that journey, still remains unrealized. Unfortunately, Mr. President, some of the same attitudes and viewpoints that created an environment where one would feel comfortable with assassinating this man who lived his work in peace and love, who led by love, led through peace, in spite of unspeakable attacks on him and his family, he still remained true to his mission: God. A man of peace, one of this nation's greatest, one of this world's greatest, taken from us by an act of violence 54 years ago, standing on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, at 6:05 p.m., about 15 minutes from when I am making these remarks. Unfortunately, Mr. President, the same environment that gave rise to James Earl Ray, that would allow him to have enough courage and will to shoot and assassinate Dr. King, still exists with us today. Dr. King fought for much: peace, love, racial justice, racial fairness, economic justice, economic fairness, the right to vote for all American citizens, healthcare justice, a fair and equitable society. He fought also for education justice. He fought to make sure that every citizen in this nation had the opportunity to get a world-class education.

Dr. King was a man of letters, study, degree, accomplished. Dr. King graduated from Morehouse College, one of the great HBCUs in this nation. When you graduate from Morehouse College, you graduate not with your academic skills and academic game together, but you also graduate with a sense of purpose and a sense of self. Dr. King realized that and he comported himself as such, and, in fact, he understood intrinsically from that experience the value and importance of education. Why education was fundamental to the success of any community to the advance, especially, of the African American community. He understood that because it was realized in him. But, the same demons that fought to oppress Dr. King, deny him his work, especially in this space of education justice, still exists with us today. That is one of the other reasons why we rise at this moment, Mr. President, to make sure that we do not get lost on the reality that the fight that was then still exists today. The fight for education justice that he died for still exists today.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, some of the same attitudes that were represented 54 years ago are still in place today, and some of them have evidenced themselves in the work of this Senate on the Majority side. How do I say this? Well, let me be specific. As you know, Mr. President, there is a lawsuit in Commonwealth Court on the issue of the fair funding of our schools. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania ranks one of the lowest in the nation--and when I say one of the lowest I am talking about a low that is almost at the bottom with respect to the amount of money that the State provides to the schools in this Commonwealth--and it rates one of the worst in terms of how it discriminatorily funds those schools. If you are Black or brown in this State, Mr. President, it is highly likely that you are in an underfunded school and a school that is funded discriminatorily. That is the reality. This case is being heard in Commonwealth Court in Pennsylvania. The lawyers have made their arguments, they are at the moment

now where they are spending the next several months preparing their briefs for the judge and hopefully before fall, hopefully before the summer ends, we will get a decision. The evidence is abundantly clear on the discrimination. The evidence is overwhelmingly abundant with respect to the underfunding, the inadequate funding, of our schools. It is hard to rebuke what was presented there, but the thing that we need to pay most attention to, Mr. President, is the underlying attitude that creates this discriminatory reality, that creates the underfunded reality of so many schools in Pennsylvania.

On January 7, 2022, the attorney representing the Senate Republican Caucus in this lawsuit said, and I quote, and I will read this, Mr. President, "What use would a carpenter have for biology?" "What use would someone on the McDonald's career track have for Algebra 1?" I know of no school that consciously has a McDonald's career track, a burger-flipping career track. I know of no school, Mr. President, that has a McDonald's career track. Yet, the attorney representing the Republican Caucus in this lawsuit uttered out of his mouth, in open court, "What use would someone on the McDonald's career track have for Algebra 1?" The offensiveness of that statement goes beyond, that I think, most of us may have ever encountered. The attorney representing the Senate Republican Caucus said in open court, why should we teach children Algebra 1 when all they are going to be is hamburger flippers? He is making an assertion, representing the Senate Republican Caucus, he is making an assertion that these kids, all they have in their destiny is to be hamburger flippers on the McDonald's career track. He is consciously saying to the people of this State and to these children--who are just as valuable, important, and relevant as any other child in this State--that you are destined to be a McDonald's hamburger flipper. You are on that career track. That is what this State has designed and destined for you. You do not need to learn Algebra 1. You do not need to learn biology. You do not need to learn calculus or philosophy or the sciences. Do not worry about the STEM programs, young little boy, young little girl, all we have for you, set up right now, is McDonald's hamburger flippers, that is the career track that you are on. John Krill is his name. He is the lawyer representing the Pennsylvania Republican--

POINT OF ORDER

Senator HUTCHINSON. Personal--

Senator HUGHES. Is Mr. Krill a Member of this body? Is Mr. Krill a Member of this body?

Senator HUTCHINSON. Point of privilege.

Senator HUGHES. Is Mr. Krill a Member of this body?

Senator HUTCHINSON. You are using a personal name.

Senator HUGHES. He said it, it is public record. It is public information. He said it in open court. I did not mention a Senator's name. I mentioned the lawyer representing the Senate Republican Caucus. He said it in open court, it is in their record, it has been published in the newspaper, it has been spread around the country on social media. If you cut me off, Mr. President, if you cut me off from speaking specifically to this matter, specifically to the offense made to the children who you want to represent in the United States Senate, then you are shutting up their reality.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, may I have a ruling on the point of order? The rules state that you cannot use personal references. It does not mention Members of the Senate.

Senator HUGHES. I am mentioning the gentleman in public record who made the statement in the court. I am not mentioning a Senator's name.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, it does not matter if it is a Senator's name. It is a personal name. You can refer to the gentleman, but not by his name.

Senator HUGHES. Well, he is not a gentleman, I will say that to you, but he does represent the Senate Republican Caucus, and he said, on January 7, 2022, "What use would a carpenter have for biology?"

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, can I have a ruling on this?

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will go at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I will stop mentioning his name, Mr. President, I will not mention his name. I will not be denied the opportunity to say what, exactly, he said.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, the attorney representing the Senate Republican Caucus said in open court, "What use would someone on the McDonald's career track have for Algebra 1?" He is making, on behalf of the Senate Republican Caucus, an assertion, a statement, a clarifying statement, that certain children in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should not be taught Algebra 1, should not be taught biology, philosophy, the STEM programs, or anything of that nature. All they need to know is how to flip hamburgers because they are on the McDonald's track.

Why do I rise on this day? Especially this day, April 4, 2022, the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Why do I rise on this day? On this day, to make this statement? Because the hate that assassinated him still exists right now. Much of that hate is being paid for by the Majority. Using Pennsylvania taxpayer dollars to pay for a legal counsel to utter out of his mouth, "What use would someone on the McDonald's career track have for Algebra 1?" Is that the perspective of the Senate Republican Caucus? He represents them in court. Yet, "What use would a carpenter have for biology?" "What use would someone on the McDonald's career track have for Algebra 1?" The hate that Dr. King was assassinated on still exists right now. So bold in 2022 to utter in open court.

What we know is this, Mr. President, education is light. Education illuminates, opens minds, and allows us to advance. It is the culture and art, it is the sciences, and it is the mathematics. Education is what brought us the vaccine that has prevented hundreds of millions, if not billions, from dying from COVID-19. Education is what built this building. Education is what we do as lawyers, practitioners, political officials, and public officials. It is through education, and what the gentleman who represents the Senate Republican Caucus is essentially saying is that education is only for some, and not for everyone. I rise on this day to make sure that we remember and recommit ourselves to this struggle, that we not forget, but we stay the course, that we do not let go of the dreams that everyone should have, must have, is obligated to have for our children, so that they can be better than us. So

they can advance to the highest levels and do great things, not just for themselves, but do great things for all of society.

On this day, April 4, 2022, we remember why Dr. King was assassinated, and we are very clear that that same hatred exists today. We are disappointed that taxpayer dollars are being utilized by the Majority to pay for an attorney to represent that hate in the education of our children; of all places, the education of our children. Education is light, Mr. President. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Education is that light. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. The famous and important quotation from Martin Luther King, Jr., "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that," and education is light. On this day, at this hour, at this moment, we recognize the 54th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. We are here to illuminate and expose the ugliness that still exists today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, this week marks 1 year since the House of Representatives sent us House Bill No. 951, a bill that passed with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. As you may recall, House Bill No. 951 opens up a statutory retroactive window for survivors of child sexual assault to bring civil suits against their attackers. The Senate has had an opportunity to provide justice for survivors for a full year and has failed to act. No, they have refused to act. We have refused to act. Despite the legal consensus that the legislature has the authority to open a retroactive window, the opposition has employed every excuse in the books to delay, to deny justice for survivors. Now, I understand that we are pursuing a path along a constitutional amendment, but I remind my colleagues that it is not one or the other, we can pursue both these paths at the same time. We have seen other States take this action. There is no reason to wait. If the President pro tempore and the Majority Leader considered the bill today, we could pass House Bill No. 951 and have it to the Governor before the end of the week. Instead, we failed these victims and we continue to fail these victims. I cannot stand by and allow this body to forget the active harm we have caused for survivors over just the last year. We should be ashamed.

Earlier today, the gentleman from Centre County talked about the importance of the Senate and the importance of the way that we do work and the manner that we hold ourselves. I say the Senate, right now, has the opportunity to turn this tragedy around. Let us do the right thing. Let us hold a vote on House Bill No. 951 and end this dark chapter in our Senate history.

Thank you, Mr. President.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

April 4, 2022

Senators BAKER, MUTH, FONTANA, SCHWANK, KANE, COLLETT, STEFANO, LAUGHLIN, COSTA and PHILLIPS-HILL presented to the Chair **SB 1160**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, further providing for definitions and for athletic trainers; and abrogating a regulation.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 4, 2022.

Senators BAKER, MUTH, FONTANA, SCHWANK, KANE, COLLETT, STEFANO, LAUGHLIN, COSTA and PHILLIPS-HILL presented to the Chair **SB 1161**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, further providing for definitions and for athletic trainers; and abrogating a regulation.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 4, 2022.

Senators BROWNE, MENSCH, LAUGHLIN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1170**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Delinquent Debt Intercept Authority, Delinquent Debt Intercept Program and Delinquent Debt Intercept Fund.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, April 4, 2022.

Senators BROOKS, HUTCHINSON, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, PITTMAN, LANGERHOLC and MASTRIANO presented to the Chair **SB 1174**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for licenses.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 4, 2022.

Senators GORDNER, SAVAL, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO, LAUGHLIN, COSTA, STREET, ROBINSON, COMMITTA, J. WARD and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1186**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration plates, further providing for USA semiquincentennial registration plates and establishing the Semiquincentennial Restricted Account.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, April 4, 2022.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 6:15 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.