A RESOLUTION

Urging the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense to take all necessary action to ensure that the residents of Horsham, Warminster and Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe drinking water, to discover the extent of the contamination, provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and to provide ongoing biomonitoring to residents and military personnel who have been exposed to the water contamination from compounds previously used at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base.

WHEREAS, The United States military used foam containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), unregulated contaminants, in firefighting training at two former bases, Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, and Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster Township, Bucks County; and

WHEREAS, The chemicals are now appearing in elevated levels in public and private water wells; and

WHEREAS, PFOS and PFOA are "extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation processes," according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also states: "The toxicity, mobility and
bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential adverse effects for the environment and human health”; and

WHEREAS, A growing body of science has established associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health effects, including a variety of cancers; and

WHEREAS, The chemicals were first discovered in local public water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in several public water wells being taken offline; and

WHEREAS, On Thursday, May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduces the amount considered safe in drinking water. In the worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits; and

WHEREAS, The new recommended levels have resulted in officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships and nearly 150 private wells; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acknowledges the efforts thus far, although more needs to be done to fully address this situation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to expeditiously determine if a Federal drinking water standard should be issued for PFOSs and PFOAs that can be enforced in the
same manner as lead and arsenic; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Environmental Protection
Agency and the Department of Defense to take all necessary
action to ensure that the residents of Horsham, Warminster and
Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe
drinking water and to discover the extent of the contamination,
provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health
consequences and provide ongoing biomonitoring to residents and
military personnel who have been exposed to the water
contamination from compounds previously used at the former
Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base; and be it
further
RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from
Pennsylvania, to the Environmental Protection Agency and to the
Department of Defense.