

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 826 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY GOODMAN, BARBIN, BELFANTI, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY,
DeLUCA, GEORGE, HENNESSEY, JOSEPHS, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,
MAHONEY, MURPHY, MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, READSHAW AND
SIPTROTH, MAY 26, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY
26, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the United States Environmental Protection Agency
2 to require all of its regional offices to enforce uniformly
3 the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act so that
4 all hazardous waste reclamation companies operate on a level
5 economic playing field.

6 WHEREAS, The reclamation of hazardous waste is important to
7 protecting the environment because it enables the reuse of
8 hazardous waste as commercial products rather than having to
9 dispose of it; and

10 WHEREAS, The reclamation of hazardous waste also contributes
11 to the economic well-being of this Commonwealth by providing
12 jobs in reclamation facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, The business of hazardous waste reclamation is
14 highly regulated under the Federal Resource Conservation and
15 Recovery Act, which is enforced by the United States
16 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its regional
17 offices throughout the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, World Resources Company of McLean, Virginia,

operates a hazardous waste reclamation facility near Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, in EPA Region Three that has 50 employees, has a valid EPA permit and has been operating in full compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and regulations for the purpose of reclaiming F006 hazardous waste and related materials to produce metal concentrates that are sold as a commercial product to primary smelters in international markets; and

WHEREAS, In complying with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and regulations, World Resources Company incurs financially significant costs for equipment inspection and maintenance, personnel training, container and tank requirements, waste testing and analysis, groundwater monitoring, liability insurance and closure plans; and

WHEREAS, World Resources Company contributes a combined economic impact of more than \$50 million to Schuylkill County and the adjacent area through employment and the purchase of local goods and services, including use of the Reading and Northern Railroad; and

WHEREAS, EPA Region Five has, in Ohio, allowed a significant variance from the hazardous waste reclamation law and regulations that World Resources Company is obliged to meet, considerably lessening the requirement in Ohio for equipment inspection and maintenance, personnel training, container and tank requirements, waste testing and analysis, groundwater monitoring, liability insurance and closure plans; and

WHEREAS, The EPA's lack of uniform Resource Conservation and Recovery Act enforcement in Ohio provides a great economic advantage to hazardous waste reclamation companies located there and unfairly places World Resources Company at a considerable

1 disadvantage in selling its services and products; and

2 WHEREAS, The unfair enforcement of the Resource Conservation
3 and Recovery Act in Ohio is inflicting a serious negative impact
4 on World Resources Company that jeopardizes continued employment
5 and workloads at the Pottsville plant; and

6 WHEREAS, The continued inequity in the administration of the
7 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in Ohio is needlessly
8 detrimental to the economy of Schuylkill County and
9 Pennsylvania; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the United States
12 Environmental Protection Agency to remove expeditiously the
13 variance in hazardous waste reclamation law enforcement now
14 allowed in Ohio and to take whatever action is needed to ensure
15 that hazardous waste reclamation companies throughout the
16 country operate under uniform rules and environmental protection
17 standards; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
19 Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the United States
20 Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200
21 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460.