
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 727 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, PRESTON, KOTIK, GEIST, D. COSTA,
P. COSTA, DeLUCA, MATZIE, RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW AND
VULAKOVICH, MAY 10, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 10,
2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Port of Pittsburgh Commission on its 20th
2 anniversary for its leadership in advocating for the passage
3 of a 20-year capital improvement plan and urging the Congress
4 of the United States to support a 20-year capital improvement
5 plan which would improve the lock and dam infrastructure of
6 the nation's inland waterway system.

7 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Pennsylvania created the
8 current Port of Pittsburgh Commission in 1992 to promote the
9 rivers of southwestern Pennsylvania as highways of commerce; and

10 WHEREAS, The Port of Pittsburgh is the second busiest inland
11 port in the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Martin Associates, located in Lancaster, has found
13 that more than 45,000 direct jobs and more than 217,000 total
14 jobs are maintained in southwestern Pennsylvania by a healthy
15 river infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, The 17 lock and dam structures on the three major
17 rivers in southwestern Pennsylvania, which allow for the passage
18 of essential commerce, have exceeded their design life by as
19 much as 50 years and many are in a severe state of

1 deterioration; and

2 WHEREAS, The distressed state of the lock and dam structures
3 threaten commerce making use of the inland waterway system; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers' Lower
5 Monongahela Improvement Project was authorized to construct a
6 new dam at Braddock and a new lock at Charleroi and to remove
7 the locks and dam at Elizabeth but has been stalled by lack of
8 funding; and

9 WHEREAS, The Port of Pittsburgh Commission has joined with
10 more than 200 industry and port groups throughout the nation to
11 urge the approval by the Congress of the United States of a 20-
12 year capital improvement plan that would, among other things,
13 complete the Lower Monongahela Improvement Plan; and

14 WHEREAS, In order to finance the 20-year capital improvement
15 plan, the plan would allow for the increase of user fees from
16 20¢ per gallon to as much as 29¢ per gallon for the commercial
17 towing industry; and

18 WHEREAS, The completion of the 20-year capital improvement
19 plan is essential to the economic health of southwestern
20 Pennsylvania's coal mining, power generation, steel making and
21 petrochemical industries; and

22 WHEREAS, The Port of Pittsburgh Commission, along with
23 Carnegie Mellon University, the United States Army Corps of
24 Engineers and the towing industry, has aggressively pursued
25 nonstructural improvements to supplement the needed structural
26 improvements; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the Port
28 of Pittsburgh Commission on its 20th anniversary for its
29 leadership in advocating for the passage of a 20-year capital
30 improvement plan; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress
2 of the United States to support a 20-year capital improvement
3 plan which would improve the lock and dam infrastructure of the
4 nation's inland waterway system.