

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 728 Session of  
2012

---

INTRODUCED BY HORNAMAN, CALTAGIRONE, CURRY, DAVIS, FABRIZIO,  
FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HARKINS,  
JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MULLERY, MUNDY, NEUMAN,  
PASHINSKI, PETRARCA, READSHAW, SAMUELSON, THOMAS AND WATERS,  
MAY 14, 2012

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY  
14, 2012

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to utilize findings  
2 compiled by the Oil and Gas Price Fraud Working Group to find  
3 a way to reduce the price of gasoline and diesel fuel in the  
4 United States.

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's economy is  
6 inextricably linked to motor transportation; and

7 WHEREAS, Millions of Pennsylvanians rely on gasoline and  
8 diesel fuel to power the vehicles that transport them to work,  
9 school, recreation, religious services, medical treatment and  
10 other destinations; and

11 WHEREAS, While the price of gasoline and diesel fuel  
12 continues to rise, and oil companies continue to enjoy record  
13 profits, working Pennsylvanians struggle to afford gasoline and  
14 diesel fuel, along with basic needs of health care, food and  
15 shelter; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2011, the largest-earning oil company reported an  
17 annual profit of \$41.1 billion, an increase of 35% over 2010;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, In 2009, hearings held by Congress investigating the  
3 causes of record-high fuel prices failed to produce an adequate  
4 national strategy to address the factors controlling those  
5 prices; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite Congress passing the toughest efficiency  
7 standards for cars and trucks in history and opening millions of  
8 new acres for oil exploration in the United States, and with  
9 dependence on imported oil dropping below 50% in 2010 for the  
10 first time in more than a decade, gas prices have continued to  
11 rise more than 12% higher than a year ago; and

12 WHEREAS, It is projected that the national average of the  
13 price of gasoline could peak as high as \$4.25 per gallon in the  
14 Spring of 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, Volatile fuel prices make it nearly impossible for  
16 business and governmental bodies to create budgets and plan  
17 future operations; and

18 WHEREAS, In April 2011, with the recommendation of President  
19 Obama, the United States Attorney General formed the Oil and Gas  
20 Price Fraud Working Group, which is exploring whether there is  
21 any evidence of manipulation of oil and gas prices, collusion,  
22 fraud or misrepresentation at the retail or wholesale levels  
23 that violates Federal or state laws and brings harm to consumers  
24 and the Federal Government as purchasers of oil and gas; and

25 WHEREAS, The Working Group also evaluates developments in the  
26 commodities markets and examines investor practices, supply and  
27 demand factors and the role of speculators and index traders in  
28 oil futures markets; and

29 WHEREAS, The United States economy will continue to suffer if  
30 gasoline and diesel fuel prices continue to be volatile;

1 therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United  
4 States to use the information compiled by the Oil and Gas Price  
5 Fraud Working Group to identify the market forces controlling  
6 gasoline and diesel fuel prices, as well as the factors that  
7 prevent the United States from recovering from the economic  
8 damage of those volatile fuel prices and to make the changes  
9 necessary, legislative or otherwise, in the operations of those  
10 markets to address the problems, lower the price of gas and  
11 diesel fuel and work toward a real solution; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and each member  
14 of Congress from Pennsylvania; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the  
16 following members of Congress at the following addresses:

17           House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
18           Chairman Fred Upton  
19           2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
20           Washington, DC 20515

21           House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
22           Ranking Member Henry Waxman  
23           2322-A Rayburn House Office Building  
24           Washington, DC 20515

25           Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and  
26           Transportation  
27           Chairman John D. Rockefeller IV  
28           531 Hart Senate Office Building  
29           Washington, DC 20510

30           Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and

1           Transportation  
2           Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchinson  
3           284 Russell Senate Office Building  
4           Washington, DC 20510