

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 869 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, D. COSTA, DALEY,
DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO, HORNAMAN, JAMES, W. KELLER,
KORTZ, MAHONEY, MILLER, MURPHY, PASHINSKI, SCHMOTZER AND
STABACK, OCTOBER 1, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
OCTOBER 1, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to repeal Section 411(h) of
2 the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

3 WHEREAS, In July, 2012, the Federal Surface Transportation
4 Bill, HR4348, was signed into law; and

5 WHEREAS, Section 100125 of HR4348 amended the Surface Mining
6 Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to limit total annual
7 abandoned mine land (AML) program payments to a certified state
8 or Indian tribe to no more than \$15 million; and

9 WHEREAS, This annual limit could result in an annual loss of
10 anywhere between \$17.8 million to \$23.2 million to
11 Pennsylvania's AML program; and

12 WHEREAS, The decrease in funding to Pennsylvania's AML
13 program would also result in a corresponding loss to
14 Pennsylvania's Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Set-Aside Program of
15 \$5.3 million to \$7 million annually; and

16 WHEREAS, The estimated total loss to these Pennsylvania

1 reclamation programs over the remaining ten years of the Federal
2 AML program could very well exceed \$200 million; and

3 WHEREAS, Abandoned mine lands are the source of numerous
4 health and safety hazards, such as abandoned mine drainage,
5 subsidence issues, open shafts, refuse piles and mine fires; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has more than 180,000 acres of
7 abandoned mine land and more than 5,500 miles of streams
8 polluted from acid mine drainage in need of reclamation; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has more than 29,000 acres of high
10 priority abandoned mine lands with documented health and safety
11 hazards at an estimated reclamation cost of more than \$1.1
12 billion; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
14 Protection's AML program has already identified 36 reclamation
15 projects with an estimated cost of \$70 million that will be
16 delayed or suspended over the next two years as a result of this
17 decrease in funding; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the United
19 States Congress to repeal Section 411(h) of the Surface Mining
20 Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.