
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 500 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY VITALI, MIRABITO, DERMODY, FRANKEL, STURLA,
ADOLPH, FREEMAN, MUNDY, COHEN, MUSTIO, BROWNLEE, ROZZI,
PASHINSKI, SAMUELSON, O'BRIEN, WATSON, PAINTER, KIRKLAND,
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SCHLOSSBERG, DIGIROLAMO, SCAVELLO, KIM, HARKINS, McGEEHAN,
FABRIZIO, MULLERY, SCHREIBER, DeLISSIO, O'NEILL, CALTAGIRONE,
RAVENSTAHL, KINSEY, D. COSTA, MAHONEY AND GOODMAN,
AUGUST 13, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
AUGUST 13, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the Governor and the Secretary of Conservation and
2 Natural Resources to prevent drilling operations in the
3 Clarence Moore Lands and preserve the character of the
4 Loyalsock State Forest.

5 WHEREAS, The Loyalsock State Forest encompasses 114,494 acres
6 in Lycoming, Sullivan and Bradford Counties; and

7 WHEREAS, The Loyalsock State Forest is home to a wealth of
8 magnificent natural and recreational resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The heart of the forest includes the Old Loggers
10 Path, a 27-mile hiking path that does not cross a single paved
11 road and features deep forests that are becoming increasingly
12 rare; and

13 WHEREAS, The Old Loggers Path has attracted hikers from
14 across the country and the world; people from England and Mexico

1 have signed the trail registers on the Old Loggers Path; and

2 WHEREAS, It also contains the Devil's Elbow Natural Area, a
3 remote plateau of rare plants, bogs and hemlock forests; and

4 WHEREAS, The forest is home to Rock Run, an Exceptional Value
5 stream, often described as the single most beautiful stream in
6 this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The forest's size, water quantity and quality and
8 lack of disturbance make it an especially valuable nesting
9 habitat for interior bird species, including the Northern
10 Goshawk, a rare raptor, and the State-endangered Yellow-Bellied
11 Flycatcher; and

12 WHEREAS, There are 25,621 acres of Loyalsock State Forest,
13 known as the Clarence Moore Lands, where the Commonwealth owns
14 only the surface estate and does not own oil and gas rights; and

15 WHEREAS, The subsurface oil and gas rights to this acreage
16 are owned by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and International
17 Development Corporation; and

18 WHEREAS, This land is divided into an 18,780-acre tract and a
19 6,841-acre tract; and

20 WHEREAS, A Commonwealth Court decision in 1983 gives the
21 Commonwealth the legal power, authority and right to prevent
22 Anadarko and International Development Corporation from using
23 the surface of 18,780 acres of the Clarence Moore Lands to
24 extract oil and gas; and

25 WHEREAS, Anadarko has entered into discussions with the
26 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to develop the
27 Clarence Moore Tracts; and

28 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Conservation and
29 Natural Resources, Anadarko has proposed a development plan that
30 includes the siting of 25 wellpads, clearing 60-foot-wide swaths

1 of land for pipelines that traverse the Old Loggers Path
2 multiple times, the construction of compressor stations and
3 impoundment pits in the area; and

4 WHEREAS, Anadarko's proposal would significantly degrade the
5 wild character of the Loyalsock State Forest; and

6 WHEREAS, Under Section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of
7 Pennsylvania, the Department of Conservation and Natural
8 Resources has a legal duty to conserve, maintain and enhance
9 State Forest lands for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians,
10 including future generations; and

11 WHEREAS, The Conservation and Natural Resources Act
12 specifically requires the Department of Conservation and Natural
13 Resources to protect, maintain and regulate the occupancy and
14 use of State Forest lands; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage the
16 Governor and the Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources
17 to exercise all of their constitutional, statutory and
18 discretionary powers to prevent drilling operations in the
19 Clarence Moore Lands to the maximum extent possible, so as to
20 preserve the wild character of the Loyalsock State Forest.