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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 649 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY FARRY, READSHAW, SWANGER, BARRAR, GROVE, MURT,  
JAMES, GINGRICH, MAJOR, WATSON, KORTZ, ROCK, COHEN,  
R. MILLER, KIRKLAND, GABLER, QUINN, DAY AND VEREB,  
FEBRUARY 18, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 18, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to actively work  
2 with the United States Department of Defense and other  
3 agencies to prohibit space-based satellite imaging companies  
4 from disseminating information to the public on the location,  
5 layout and structure of United States military facilities,  
6 both overseas and on the homefront, in the hope that it will  
7 discourage rogue and terrorist groups from having the  
8 intelligence and planning necessary to disrupt interests of  
9 the country and put in mortal danger the lives of our  
10 country's servicemen and servicewomen.

11 WHEREAS, The United States military has a sprawling array of  
12 bases spanning the entire globe, including naval ports,  
13 intelligence gathering centers, forward operations outposts and  
14 airfields in countries around the world; and

15 WHEREAS, These bases, which guarantee the free flow of goods  
16 along international shipping lanes, confidently remind our  
17 allies and enemies of American promises and military prowess and  
18 provide for humanitarian and emergency aid to those who accept  
19 help, must be protected and have their best interests  
20 continually protected by the United States; and

1       WHEREAS, With ever advancing technology and the privatization  
2 of space-based systems, specifically space-based mapping  
3 programs, there is the potential for sensitive material to be  
4 disclosed publicly, thereby jeopardizing the secrecy and  
5 confidentiality necessary to conduct operations both in theaters  
6 of war and also on the homefront; and

7       WHEREAS, With the proliferation and capabilities of the  
8 Internet and the availability of satellite imaging capabilities,  
9 it is relatively easy for an individual or group to accurately  
10 pinpoint United States military locations overseas and on the  
11 homefront and to have detailed images of their layouts; and

12       WHEREAS, Although several United States military  
13 installations overseas and on the homefront have been pixilated  
14 or "blacked out" to limit security threats, there is no  
15 comprehensive law to apply uniformly and internationally; and

16       WHEREAS, International allies, such as Israel, South Korea  
17 and India, have expressed concern that satellite imagining  
18 companies have increased security threats to specific military  
19 installations in their home countries and have been successful  
20 in convincing satellite imagining companies to censor said  
21 locations; and

22       WHEREAS, There have been reports that international terrorist  
23 groups, such as Hamas, have used satellite imaging capabilities  
24 to target Israel, and the 2008 Mumbai gunmen specified the use  
25 of satellite imaging-type applications in planning their attacks  
26 against India; and

27       WHEREAS, It is only a matter of time until satellite imaging  
28 capabilities are used to plan strategic and tactical terrorist  
29 attacks on United States' cities, transportation networks,  
30 telecommunication hubs, power grids and international military

1 bases, some of which are located in conflict-stained areas where  
2 security is both important and difficult to ensure; therefore be  
3 it

4       RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
5 memorialize the Congress of the United States and the United  
6 States Department of Defense to consider finding ways to protect  
7 the integrity and ambiguity of United States military bases  
8 overseas and on the homefront, to ensure that satellite  
9 imaging capabilities will not be detrimental to national  
10 security; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania House of Representatives urge  
12 military and civilian leaders nationally to dramatically hamper  
13 the ability of terrorist groups to access sensitive information  
14 on military installations both domestically and abroad; and be  
15 it further

16       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
17 President of the United States, the United States Department of  
18 Defense and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.