
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 734 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY PAINTER, B. BOYLE, HENNESSEY, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE,
THOMAS, SCHLOSSBERG, KIM, MILLARD, JAMES, MAJOR, BROWNLEE,
YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, DONATUCCI, MCNEILL, HARHART, MURT,
D. COSTA, SIMS, KIRKLAND, FLECK, GOODMAN, WATSON, GINGRICH,
ROEBUCK AND MCCARTER, MARCH 20, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 20, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the selection of the Schuylkill River as
2 Pennsylvania's 2014 River of the Year.

3 WHEREAS, Since 1983, the Department of Conservation and
4 Natural Resources has coordinated a program to select
5 Pennsylvania's River of the Year; and

6 WHEREAS, This annual recognition helps raise awareness of the
7 important role we as individuals and, collectively, a society
8 can have in maintaining and improving the beauty and viability
9 of Pennsylvania's waterways; and

10 WHEREAS, Recently, the program was revamped to include a
11 community participation process in which the public is invited
12 to vote for a river from a group of finalists; and

13 WHEREAS, In this year's balloting, the Schuylkill River,
14 which was nominated by several entities, including Montgomery
15 County, was chosen from a group of five waterways as
16 Pennsylvania's 2014 River of the Year; and

1 WHEREAS, Previously selected in 1999 as Pennsylvania's River
2 of the Year, the Schuylkill River joins only a handful of
3 waterways to have been honored as multiyear winners; and

4 WHEREAS, The Schuylkill River stretches 128 miles from its
5 headwaters in the anthracite mining region of this Commonwealth
6 to its confluence with the Delaware River in the City of
7 Philadelphia; and

8 WHEREAS, In the mid-20th century, the Schuylkill River was
9 one of the nation's dirtiest rivers, as its waters served as a
10 depository for factory effluent, raw sewage and, perhaps most
11 damaging of all, coal waste; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1945, the Commonwealth agreed to undertake the
13 Schuylkill River Project, which dredged millions of tons of coal
14 waste from the river; and

15 WHEREAS, Thanks to the Schuylkill River Project and public
16 and private stewardship efforts, such as the Schuylkill County
17 Greenway Association, the health of the Schuylkill River has
18 improved markedly over the past seven decades to the point where
19 it now serves as a drinking water source for approximately 1.5
20 million people; and

21 WHEREAS, The Schuylkill River is also a popular recreational
22 destination for boaters, trail users and anglers, thereby
23 stimulating economic development and revitalization in
24 waterfront communities along its shores; and

25 WHEREAS, The Schuylkill River is a noteworthy environmental
26 success story that has become a valuable asset to this
27 Commonwealth and the communities through which it flows;
28 therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
30 selection of the Schuylkill River as Pennsylvania's 2014 River

1 of the Year.