
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 29 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY YAW, WOZNIAK, KASUNIC, BAKER, TOMLINSON, STACK,
BREWSTER, CORMAN, RAFFERTY, VOGEL, GORDNER, GREENLEAF,
YUDICHAK AND ERICKSON, FEBRUARY 7, 2013

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to study the
2 potential for increased residential, commercial and
3 industrial natural gas distribution infrastructure by
4 Pennsylvania's public utilities to unserved and underserved
5 areas of this Commonwealth.

6 WHEREAS, Over the past several years, Pennsylvania consumers
7 have benefited from substantially lower and more stable natural
8 gas prices due to the development of technologies that allow
9 energy producers to access significant supplies of domestic
10 natural gas from shale formations and other unconventional
11 reservoirs; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2010, as a result of this technology,
13 Pennsylvania's natural gas production more than quadrupled and
14 became the 5th largest in the United States behind Texas,
15 Wyoming, West Virginia and Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the recent production levels of natural gas
17 in Pennsylvania, this Commonwealth continues to lack the natural
18 gas distribution infrastructure needed to supply this valuable
19 resource to a majority of Pennsylvanians in rural and urban

1 communities; and

2 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau estimates that only
3 51% of Pennsylvania homes are heated with natural gas, and that
4 in 49% of Pennsylvania's municipalities, less than 25% of the
5 homes are heated by natural gas; and

6 WHEREAS, The lack of natural gas service is a hardship for
7 citizens in this Commonwealth who are required to purchase more
8 expensive heating sources as a result of a lack of natural gas
9 distribution infrastructure; and

10 WHEREAS, The extension and expansion of natural gas
11 distribution infrastructure is critically important to providing
12 consumers with the best energy value now and into the future;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The lack of natural gas service is also contributing
15 to a lack of economic development in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, If extended and expanded, the natural gas
17 distribution infrastructure can significantly improve the
18 economic climate in this Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, Encouraging the extension and expansion of natural
20 gas will further benefit consumers, provide new jobs and lead to
21 lower net emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and sulfur
22 dioxide; and

23 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has long supported sustainable
24 resource development and balanced efforts to ensure the delivery
25 of energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner
26 that benefits Pennsylvanians; and

27 WHEREAS, The extension and expansion of natural gas
28 distribution infrastructure will improve consumer satisfaction,
29 provide for increased economic development opportunities and
30 create jobs in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Center for Rural Pennsylvania is directed
2 to study the extension and expansion of natural gas distribution
3 infrastructure by Pennsylvania's public utilities to unserved
4 and underserved areas of this Commonwealth by collecting and
5 analyzing information on the following:

6 (1) the estimated demand for natural gas service in
7 unserved and underserved areas of this Commonwealth;

8 (2) the estimated price consumers are willing to pay for
9 access or conversion to natural gas service;

10 (3) the identification of any regional differences in
11 consumer demand and willingness to pay for natural gas
12 service; and

13 (4) any other relevant economic information on the costs
14 and benefits to extend and expand natural gas distribution
15 infrastructure;

16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Center for Rural Pennsylvania shall report
18 its findings, plans and recommendations to the General Assembly
19 not later than August 1, 2013.