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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 478 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY STACK, ALLOWAY, BLAKE, WASHINGTON, TEPLITZ,  
KASUNIC, RAFFERTY, ERICKSON, SCHWANK, SMITH, COSTA, FONTANA,  
WHITE, TARTAGLIONE, VULAKOVICH AND GORDNER, OCTOBER 14, 2014

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
OCTOBER 14, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States, the Department of  
2 Defense and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to  
3 take every action necessary to protect existing military  
4 bases in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, During the 2005 Federal Base Realignment and Closure  
6 (BRAC) Commission reductions, this Commonwealth lost a greater  
7 percentage of positions in the four prior rounds of the BRAC  
8 Commission than any other state, with a total loss of 16,033  
9 jobs consisting of 3,009 military and 13,024 civilian positions;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has:

12 (1) Two hundred and thirteen thousand Pennsylvania jobs  
13 from defense spending;

14 (2) Thirty billion dollars from defense contributing to  
15 the Pennsylvania economy;

16 (3) Four billion one hundred million dollars from  
17 Department of Defense contracts issued October 1 through  
18 December 31, 2013, for work completed in Pennsylvania;

1           (4) Eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen full-  
2           time direct Pennsylvania jobs lost to the BRAC process to  
3           date;

4           and

5           WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the top  
6           ten employers in this Commonwealth; and

7           WHEREAS, In 2009, it was estimated that the National Guard  
8           provided an economic impact of \$1.5 billion on the Pennsylvania  
9           economy; and

10          WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has a proud military tradition and  
11          heritage dating back to 1747; and

12          WHEREAS, In 1747, Benjamin Franklin led some 600 volunteers  
13          to provide for a common defense against Indian raiders and  
14          French privateers; and

15          WHEREAS, The volunteers are recognized as the foundation of  
16          the Pennsylvania National Guard; and

17          WHEREAS, In 1755, the Assembly of the Province of  
18          Pennsylvania passed the first militia act, which formally  
19          authorized a volunteer militia; and

20          WHEREAS, Today, the Pennsylvania National Guard has 19,000  
21          members, including 3,000 full-time members and 16,000  
22          traditional part-time members; and

23          WHEREAS, The Commander of the Pennsylvania National Guard is  
24          the Adjunct General; and

25          WHEREAS, The Adjutant General is responsible for a joint  
26          military force, comprised of Air Force and Army units; and

27          WHEREAS, The Joint Force Headquarters is located at Fort  
28          Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County; and

29          WHEREAS, In time of war or national emergency, or in support  
30          of any military operation worldwide, the President can mobilize

1 units of the Pennsylvania National Guard into active Federal  
2 service; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania units have taken part in every conflict  
4 America has faced, from the Revolutionary War through Iraqi  
5 Freedom, as well as ongoing peacekeeping missions in Kosovo,  
6 Bosnia and elsewhere; and

7 WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, the Pennsylvania National  
8 Guard has seen over 35,000 deployments in support of the Global  
9 War on Terror; and

10 WHEREAS, In the event of natural disaster or civil emergency,  
11 the Governor can order the National Guard personnel and  
12 equipment into service to assist State and local authorities.  
13 For example, in September 2005, in the wake of Hurricanes  
14 Katrina and Rita, 2,500 of our soldiers and airmen were deployed  
15 to the Gulf Coast within a few days of the storms to provide  
16 communications, humanitarian assistance and force protection;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard offers broad support  
19 to the civilian community, including the Counterdrug Program;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Guard members serve as role models, as well as  
22 community volunteers and civic leaders, which are living  
23 examples of citizenship at its best; and

24 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the  
25 largest National Guards in the nation; and

26 WHEREAS, With armories and air bases in some 90 communities,  
27 the National Guard's presence blankets this Commonwealth; and

28 WHEREAS, Current operational military installations in the  
29 Commonwealth include, but are not limited to:

30 (1) Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, located in Lebanon

1 County, serves as the headquarters for the Department of  
2 Military Affairs and the Pennsylvania National Guard; and

3 (2) Carlisle Barracks, the second oldest military base  
4 in the United States is part of the United States Army  
5 Training and Doctrine Command and hosts the well-known Army  
6 War College; and

7 (3) Tobyhanna Army Depot, a military base in Coolbaugh  
8 Township in the eastern part of this Commonwealth; and

9 (4) The New Cumberland Army Depot, located in Fairview  
10 Township, just outside of Harrisburg; and

11 (5) Letterkenny, located near Chambersburg, comprises  
12 17,500 acres and is one of the top three employers in  
13 Franklin County; and

14 (6) Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg, one of the few  
15 military facilities run by the United States Navy in this  
16 Commonwealth; and

17 (7) Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, in Willow  
18 Grove, is located on Route 611 in Horsham Township,  
19 Montgomery County; and

20 (8) Edgemont United States Army Reserve Center, located  
21 near Ridley Creek State Park outside of Philadelphia; and

22 (9) The 911th Airlift Wing, located in Moon Township;  
23 and

24 (10) Charles E. Kelly Support Facility, located in  
25 Oakdale just outside of Pittsburgh; and

26 (11) Philadelphia National Guard Facility; and

27 (12) Wilkes-Barre Kingston Army National Guard Facility;  
28 therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Congress of the United  
30 States, the Department of Defense and the Base Realignment and

1 Closure Commission to take every action necessary to protect  
2 existing military bases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and  
3 be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate support maintaining all military  
5 facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and urge the  
6 Congress, the Department of Defense and the Base Realignment and  
7 Closure Commission to support the same; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
9 the members of Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, the  
10 Secretary of Defense and the Base Realignment and Closure  
11 Commission.