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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 290 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY MAHER, APRIL 26, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 26, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 7 through 13, 2017, as "Drinking  
2 Water Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, While more than 70% of the earth's surface is  
4 covered with water, only 1% of that water is suitable for human  
5 consumption; and

6 WHEREAS, Groundwater, the water that soaks into the soil from  
7 raindrops and moves downward to fill cracks and other openings  
8 in beds of rock and sand, makes up about 90% of the fresh water  
9 on earth, not including polar icecaps; and

10 WHEREAS, Individual water wells tapping groundwater resources  
11 provide high-quality water to many homeowners and businesses;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Few people consider water supply when choosing a  
14 home or when taking a stand on local water supply regulations;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 2,000 municipally owned or investor-  
17 owned community drinking water systems provide high-quality  
18 water to homeowners and businesses; and

1 WHEREAS, Federal and State drinking water standards are  
2 upheld by the Department of Environmental Protection for all of  
3 those systems; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission regulates  
5 the rates and service of investor-owned water companies in this  
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The mission of the Pennsylvania Public Utility  
8 Commission is to ensure that safe and reliable service is  
9 provided to ratepayers at a reasonable price; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority  
11 (PENNVEST) and the H2O PA Program provide low-cost financial  
12 assistance for infrastructure improvements to community drinking  
13 water systems; and

14 WHEREAS, Ongoing cooperation among the Department of  
15 Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Public Utility  
16 Commission and PENNVEST strengthens drinking water system  
17 viability, enhances service, increases economies of scale,  
18 regionally maximizes efficient water supply and use and fosters  
19 economic development; and

20 WHEREAS, A State water plan has been developed to coordinate  
21 regional, county and local water allocation and use, land  
22 development planning and related zoning requirements under Act  
23 220 of 2002; and

24 WHEREAS, The American Water Works Association established  
25 "National Drinking Water Week" more than 35 years ago to call  
26 attention to water as a precious natural resource; and

27 WHEREAS, Water conservation and water quality maintenance are  
28 essential to this Commonwealth and our nation; and

29 WHEREAS, Because the service provided by viable community  
30 drinking water systems is generally available instantaneously on

1 a 24-hour basis, many of us take safe and reliable drinking  
2 water for granted; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
4 week of May 7 through 13, 2017, as "Drinking Water Week" in  
5 Pennsylvania to heighten awareness of drinking water treatment,  
6 monitoring, distribution and related costs and urge all  
7 residents of this Commonwealth to protect our watersheds,  
8 conserve our precious drinking water supply and preserve its  
9 superior quality.