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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 515 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY FRITZ, BERNSTINE, BAKER AND MACKENZIE,  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Delaware River Basin Commission to suspend  
2 consideration of a moratorium on natural gas drilling in the  
3 Delaware River Basin.

4 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth have waited  
5 patiently for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to take  
6 action regarding the advancement of natural gas extraction in  
7 the basin; and

8 WHEREAS, The special meeting of the DRBC scheduled for  
9 November 21, 2011, to consider adoption of draft natural gas  
10 development regulations was postponed and to date has created  
11 the appearance of being postponed indefinitely; and

12 WHEREAS, The inaction-based moratorium on natural gas  
13 development has exceeded a reasonable time period and, because  
14 of such, has caused irreparable economic harm to those who  
15 entered into good faith leasing agreements with natural gas  
16 developers; and

17 WHEREAS, As articulated and clarified in their May 8, 2013,  
18 press release titled "SRBC Staying In Its Lane, Study Water

1 Quantity," the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's purpose and  
2 objective is to remain in the agency's lane of expertise. The  
3 SRBC states; "when a regulatory agency chooses to stray out of  
4 its lane of expertise and mission, it can have profound  
5 programmatic and legal consequences. Most important, however, I  
6 believe it does the public a disservice"; and

7 WHEREAS, The residents and property owners in the  
8 Commonwealth have suffered and continue to suffer from the  
9 disservice that is a consequence of inaction on behalf of the  
10 DRBC; and

11 WHEREAS, The DRBC should follow a similar regulatory path as  
12 the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and focus on its mission  
13 as a water management agency to assure the long-term balance  
14 between healthy ecosystems and economic vitality; and

15 WHEREAS, The DRBC should abandon any proposed plans to  
16 regulate natural gas drilling beyond the already established  
17 functions that focus on water quantity and water quality data  
18 collection and analysis; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Delaware  
20 River Basin Commission to suspend consideration of a moratorium  
21 on natural gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin.