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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1034 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY C. QUINN, DEAN, HENNESSEY, BARRAR, CORBIN, NEILSON  
AND WATSON, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Calling for safe pipeline infrastructure expansion and directing  
2 the Department of Environmental Protection and the  
3 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to prepare a  
4 comprehensive risk assessment of the Sunoco Pipeline L.P.  
5 Mariner East 2 natural gas liquids pipeline project impacting  
6 17 counties throughout this Commonwealth and make a report.

7 WHEREAS, Pipelines carrying natural gas and natural gas  
8 liquids represent a major investment in Commonwealth  
9 transportation infrastructure and energy generation capacity;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Expanded pipeline routes may pass close to homes,  
12 child-care facilities, schools, libraries, hospitals, senior  
13 living facilities, recreation areas, streams, lakes and  
14 wetlands, directly impacting individuals and communities  
15 throughout our Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, As part of the Statewide transportation  
17 infrastructure, pipelines carrying natural gas and natural gas  
18 liquids must satisfy applicable statutes and regulations as well  
19 as relevant technical and administrative permit terms and

1 conditions; and

2 WHEREAS, Deficiencies and noncompliance affecting the safety  
3 of persons, property and the environment are key considerations  
4 in the expansion of our Statewide transportation infrastructure;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Deficiencies and noncompliance increase the  
7 magnitude of risk to persons, property and the environment in  
8 impact zones and threaten related employment and investment; and

9 WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection issued an  
10 order in January 2018 immediately suspending construction  
11 permits for the Mariner East 2 (ME2) pipeline infrastructure  
12 expansion project; and

13 WHEREAS, Cessation of activities under the order does apply  
14 to maintenance of erosion controls or certain limited  
15 maintenance of horizontal directional drilling equipment; and

16 WHEREAS, Sunoco Pipeline L.P. (Sunoco), a subsidiary of one  
17 of our nation's largest pipeline operators, Energy Transfer  
18 Partners L.P. of Dallas, Texas, is building the ME2; and

19 WHEREAS, The second of three adjacent pipelines, the ME2 is  
20 designed for the conveyance and export of ethane, butane,  
21 propane and other liquefied hydrocarbons; and

22 WHEREAS, These materials will move from the Marcellus Shale  
23 region in western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia to  
24 industries and consumers, including European petrochemical  
25 manufacturers, through the Sunoco Partners Marketing & Terminals  
26 L.P. terminal in Marcus Hook, Delaware County; and

27 WHEREAS, The proposed 350-mile-long ME2 system comprises new  
28 20-inch-diameter pipeline designed to supplement an older route,  
29 dating to the 1930s, that carried refined petroleum products  
30 from the former Sunoco refinery complex in Marcus Hook to

1 Statewide outlets; and

2 WHEREAS, Construction of a third, parallel, 16-inch-diameter  
3 pipeline, referred to as ME2X, is planned upon completion of the  
4 ME2, establishing a combined Mariner pipeline capacity of up to  
5 800,000 barrels per day; and

6 WHEREAS, Sunoco is required to provide notice of spills and  
7 contamination affecting public and private lands under the \$2.5  
8 billion ME2 energy infrastructure project; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives affirm the need  
10 for the safe construction, monitoring and operation of critical  
11 pipeline infrastructure projects; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge Sunoco's  
13 developers and operators to comply with applicable ME2 permit  
14 requirements in all relevant Statewide jurisdictions; and be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives note that special  
17 permit conditions exist related to private drinking water wells  
18 under the Department of Environmental Protection permit  
19 application review process; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Department of Environmental Protection  
21 require Sunoco to submit a detailed plan addressing spills of  
22 drilling fluid known as inadvertent returns; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
24 Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania  
25 Public Utility Commission to conduct a comprehensive risk  
26 assessment related to Sunoco's ME2 project; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the risk assessment identify potential risks  
28 of construction and operation activities and address known  
29 public concerns about the enforcement of associated permit  
30 protections and safety standards, including during emergencies;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That that risk assessment include additional  
3 relevant material as warranted; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Department of Environmental Protection and  
5 the Pennsylvania Public Utility report findings and  
6 recommendations to the Governor, President pro tempore and  
7 Minority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker and Minority  
8 Leader of the House of Representatives.