
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, RESCHENTHALER AND VULAKOVICH,
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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Pennsylvania natural gas producers to export natural gas
2 to European countries in an effort to curtail the natural gas
3 monopoly that Russia has on the region.

4 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is fortunate to
5 have one of the most abundant and diverse mineral resource
6 fields in the world, including the Marcellus Shale natural gas
7 reserves; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Community and
9 Economic Development, Pennsylvania is the second-largest natural
10 gas producer in the nation, and our production has increased
11 more than 2,400% in the past five years; and

12 WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Protection's Oil and
13 Gas Annual Report for 2016 showed that a record level (about 5.1
14 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas was produced in
15 Pennsylvania, up nearly 11% from the previous year; and

16 WHEREAS, A study released in March 2017 by IHS Markit
17 regarding enhancing Pennsylvania's opportunities in the
18 petrochemical and plastic industries stated: "In 2015, the

1 natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica Shale accounted for a
2 quarter of all natural gas produced in the United States and is
3 expected to account for more than 40% on the nation's natural
4 gas production by 2030"; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the United States Energy Information
6 Administration (EIA), Pennsylvania ranked among the top three
7 net energy suppliers in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, EIA's latest Short-Term Energy Outlook projects that
9 the United States will become a net exporter of natural gas in
10 2017 and further states: "Abundant natural gas resources and
11 large production increases have created opportunities for U.S.
12 natural gas exports"; and

13 WHEREAS, A 2017 Gas Market Report (Analysis and Forecasts to
14 2022) from the International Energy Agency (IEA) notes that the
15 "United States, the world's largest gas producer, will increase
16 production more than any other country over the next five years,
17 accounting for almost 40% of global output growth"; and

18 WHEREAS, Natural gas exports play an important geopolitical
19 role; and

20 WHEREAS, Russia has been the dominant provider of liquefied
21 natural gas (LNG) to European countries, and much of the LNG
22 these countries use flows through pipelines that cross Ukraine;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, According to The European Union 2014 Review issued
25 by IEA, countries including Bulgaria, the Baltic states, Finland
26 and the Slovak Republic "depend as much as 100% on gas imports
27 from Russia as the single supplier"; and

28 WHEREAS, Russia has demonstrated on a number of occasions its
29 power as a dominant natural gas supplier by shutting off natural
30 gas to Ukraine, thus threatening the energy security of these

1 countries and prompting efforts to diversify LNG sources; and

2 WHEREAS, Exports from the United States would help to reduce
3 dependence on Russian gas, weakening Russia's ability to use
4 energy as a weapon; and

5 WHEREAS, Exports from the United States would help to make
6 the natural gas market more global and competitive; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2016, the first United States LNG export terminal
8 was opened and began shipping gas overseas; and

9 WHEREAS, Additional LNG terminals are planned within the next
10 several years; and

11 WHEREAS, Based on construction of these export terminals, the
12 EIA projects that the United States will have the third-largest
13 LNG export capacity in the world by 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, In June 2017, the United States delivered its first
15 Central European LNG shipment, which arrived in Poland; and

16 WHEREAS, During a visit to Warsaw, Poland, in July 2017 to
17 attend a meeting of the Three Seas Initiative, an effort by 12
18 Central and Eastern European nations to increase trade,
19 infrastructure and energy ties, President Donald Trump remarked:
20 "We are committed to securing your access to alternative sources
21 of energy, so Poland and its neighbors are never again held
22 hostage to a single supplier of energy"; and

23 WHEREAS, Now that Pennsylvania and the nation have an
24 abundant supply of natural gas and the capacity to export it, we
25 can help Central and Eastern Europe reduce their reliance on
26 Russia while at the same time improving our own domestic
27 economy; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
29 urge Pennsylvania natural gas producers to export natural gas to
30 European countries in an effort to curtail the natural gas

1 monopoly that Russia has on the region; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
4 each house of Congress, each member of Congress from
5 Pennsylvania, the Marcellus Shale Coalition and the Secretary of
6 Community and Economic Development.