
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 582 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, STURLA, HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, HARRIS, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, MURT, HILL-EVANS, DIGIROLAMO, VITALI, SCHLOSSBERG, JOHNSON-HARRELL, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, FREEMAN, LEE, OTTEN, McCLINTON, ROZZI AND SCHWEYER, OCTOBER 22, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 21 through 27, 2019, as
2 "Environmental Justice Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The first National People of Color Environmental
4 Leadership Summit was held October 24 through 27, 1991, in
5 Washington, DC; and

6 WHEREAS, Seventeen principles of environmental justice were
7 adopted at the summit; and

8 WHEREAS, The principles have served as the defining document
9 and basis for the grassroots movement for environmental justice;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Gathered together at the summit, delegates
12 established a national and international movement on behalf of
13 all people of color to fight the destruction of lands and
14 communities and to reestablish their spiritual interdependence
15 to the sacredness of Mother Earth; and

16 WHEREAS, The delegates strove to create a level of respect

1 for differing cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural
2 world and individuals' roles in healing themselves and ensure
3 environmental justice and promote economic alternatives that
4 would contribute to the development of environmentally safe
5 livelihoods; and

6 WHEREAS, The adoption of the principles was also a step
7 toward securing the political, economic and cultural liberation
8 for all people of color who had been denied basic rights through
9 colonization and oppression for more than 500 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Specifically, the principles of environmental
11 justice:

12 (1) affirm the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological
13 unity and the interdependence of all species and the right to
14 be free from ecological destruction;

15 (2) demand that public policy be based on mutual respect
16 and justice for all people, free from any form of
17 discrimination or bias;

18 (3) mandate the right to ethical, balanced and
19 responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the
20 interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living
21 things;

22 (4) call for universal protection from nuclear testing,
23 extraction, production and disposal of toxic or hazardous
24 wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threatens the
25 fundamental right to clean air, land, water and food;

26 (5) affirm the fundamental right to political, economic,
27 cultural and environmental self-determination of all people;

28 (6) demand the cessation of the production of all
29 toxins, hazardous wastes and radioactive materials, and that
30 all past and current producers be held strictly accountable

1 to the people for detoxification and the containment at the
2 point of production;

3 (7) demand the right to participate as equal partners at
4 every level of decisionmaking, including needs assessment,
5 planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation;

6 (8) affirm the right of all workers to a safe and
7 healthy work environment without being forced to choose
8 between unsafe working conditions and unemployment and the
9 right of those who work at home to be free from environmental
10 hazards;

11 (9) protect the right of victims of environmental
12 injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for
13 damages as well as quality health care;

14 (10) consider governmental acts of environmental
15 injustice a violation of international law, the Universal
16 Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention
17 on Genocide;

18 (11) recognize a special legal relationship of Native
19 Americans to the United States Government through treaties,
20 agreements, compacts and covenants affirming sovereignty and
21 self-determination;

22 (12) affirm the need for urban and rural ecological
23 policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas
24 in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of
25 all our communities and providing fair access for all people
26 to the full range of resources;

27 (13) call for the strict enforcement of principles of
28 informed consent and a halt to the testing of experimental
29 reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on
30 people of color;

1 (14) oppose the destructive operations of multinational
2 corporations;

3 (15) oppose military occupation, repression and
4 exploitation of lands, people, cultures and other life forms;

5 (16) call for the education of present and future
6 generations, which emphasizes social and environmental
7 issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our
8 diverse cultural perspectives; and

9 (17) require that individuals make personal choices to
10 consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and produce as
11 little waste as possible and make the conscious decision to
12 challenge and reprioritize their lifestyles to ensure the
13 health of the natural world for present and future
14 generations;

15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
17 week of October 21 through 27, 2019, as "Environmental Justice
18 Week" in Pennsylvania.