
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 201 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, KEARNEY, FONTANA, KANE, SCHWANK, COMITTA,
COLLETT, CAPPELLETTI AND COSTA, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the 17
2 principles of Environmental Justice that were presented to
3 delegates at the First National People of Color Environmental
4 Leadership Summit.

5 WHEREAS, The First National People of Color Environmental
6 Leadership Summit was held October 24 through 27, 1991, in
7 Washington, DC; and

8 WHEREAS, Seventeen principles of Environmental Justice were
9 adopted at the summit; and

10 WHEREAS, These 17 principles have served as the defining
11 document and basis for the grassroots movement for environmental
12 justice; and

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

18 WHEREAS, The delegates strove to create a level of respect
19 for differing cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural

1 world and individuals' roles in healing themselves, ensuring
2 environmental justice and to promote economic alternatives that
3 would contribute to the development of environmentally safe
4 livelihoods; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Under these principles, Environmental Justice
10 affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the
11 interdependence of all species and the right to be free from
12 ecological destruction; and

13 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice demands that public policy be
14 based on mutual respect and justice for all people free from any
15 form of discrimination or bias; and

16 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical,
17 balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in
18 the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living
19 things; and

20 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice calls for universal protection
21 from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of
22 toxic or hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that
23 threatens the fundamental right to clean air, land, water and
24 food; and

25 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice affirms the fundamental right
26 to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-
27 determination of all people; and

28 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice demands the cessation of the
29 production of all toxins, hazardous wastes and radioactive
30 materials, and that all past and current producers be held

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

3 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice demands the right to
4 participate as equal partners at every level of decision making,
5 including needs assessment, planning, implementation,
6 enforcement and evaluation; and

7 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice affirms the right of all
8 workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being
9 forced to choose between unsafe working conditions and
10 unemployment and the right of those who work at home to be free
11 from environmental hazards; and

12 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice protects the right of victims
13 of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and
14 reparations for damages as well as quality health care; and

15 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice considers governmental acts of
16 environmental injustice a violation of international law, the
17 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations
18 Convention on Genocide; and

19 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice must recognize a special legal
20 relationship of Native Americans to the United States Government
21 through treaties, agreements, compacts and covenants affirming
22 sovereignty and self-determination; and

23 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice affirms the need for urban and
24 rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and
25 rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural
26 integrity of all our communities and providing fair access for
27 all people to the full range of resources; and

28 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice calls for the strict
29 enforcement of principles of informed consent and a halt to the
30 testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and

1 vaccinations on people of color; and

2 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice opposes the destructive
3 operations of multinational corporations; and

4 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice opposes military occupation,
5 repression and exploitation of lands, people, cultures and other
6 life forms; and

7 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice calls for the education of
8 present and future generations which emphasizes social and
9 environmental issues based on our experience and an appreciation
10 of our diverse cultural perspectives; and

11 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice requires that we as
12 individuals make personal and consumer choices to consume as
13 little of Mother Earth's resources and produce as little waste
14 as possible and make the conscious decision to challenge and
15 reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural
16 world for present and future generations; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
18 General Assembly recognize the 30th anniversary of the adoption
19 of the 17 principles of Environmental Justice that were
20 presented to delegates at the First National People of Color
21 Environmental Leadership Summit.