

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 410

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the ratification of Pennsylvania's
Environmental Rights Amendment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2021

Ms. DEAN (for herself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. SCANLON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the ratification of
Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment.

Whereas, on May 18, 1971, Pennsylvania voters ratified article 1, section 27 of their constitution, commonly referred to as the “Environmental Rights Amendment”;

Whereas the amendment guarantees the people of Pennsylvania the right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment;

Whereas the amendment ensures Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come;

Whereas, with the amendment, the Commonwealth became trustee of these resources and shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;

Whereas the joint resolution which proposed the amendment had unanimous support in both the Pennsylvania House and Senate, and was approved by Pennsylvania voters with a four-to-one margin;

Whereas the ballot measure had broad support from numerous organizations including the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council;

Whereas the amendment made the Pennsylvania government responsible for the environment, giving the public the ability to compel the government to act through legal means;

Whereas the ratification of the amendment established the right to a healthy environment as important and necessary as other constitutional rights in Pennsylvania;

Whereas the amendment was created to protect Pennsylvania's environment and natural resources from further devastation caused by a lack of environmental regulation for over a century; and

Whereas those in the Pennsylvania State government, specifically Representative Franklin L. Kury, worked tirelessly to pass the amendment through the Pennsylvania General Assembly and advance it on the primary ballot to provide Pennsylvania's environment with permanent protection in the Commonwealth's constitution: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the rati-
2 fication of the Environmental Rights Amendment in
3 Pennsylvania;

4 (2) recognizes the broad support the amend-
5 ment had among Pennsylvania citizens and govern-
6 ment;

7 (3) acknowledges this amendment is crucial to
8 the protection of Pennsylvania's environment and
9 natural resources;

10 (4) supports the values espoused by the amend-
11 ment, including the notion of the right to clean air
12 and pure water, and the Commonwealth's responsi-
13 bility in preserving the environment for future gen-
14 erations; and

15 (5) recognizes the conservation of environment
16 is key to the future success of the United States.

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