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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 505 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, GIRAL, HILL-EVANS, RABB, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, OTTEN, DONAHUE, KHAN, GUENST AND DALEY,  
JULY 30, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JULY 30, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study and  
2 issue a report on the feasibility and implementation of  
3 methods and criteria for expanding construction requirements  
4 to use more sustainable building products in State-funded and  
5 private construction projects.

6 WHEREAS, The effects of climate change and global warming  
7 threaten human well-being and planetary health; and

8 WHEREAS, Greenhouse gas emissions are and continue to be the  
9 primary contributor to global warming; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States is the second largest emitter of  
11 greenhouse gas emissions, with a total share of 11.13% of global  
12 emissions; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States has pledged to achieve net-zero  
14 emissions no later than 2050 in order to mitigate the effects of  
15 climate change; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2023, the United States, as a member of the  
17 United Nation's Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative,  
18 pledged to adopt commitments to procure low-emission steel,  
19 cement and concrete and to set emissions reduction thresholds to

1 achieve net zero emissions in public buildings and built  
2 infrastructure by 2050; and

3 WHEREAS, Building and construction contributes 37% of global  
4 emissions for greenhouse gases; and

5 WHEREAS, Materials such as steel, concrete, asphalt and flat  
6 glass contain high quantities of greenhouse gas emissions due to  
7 the energy-intensive processes used to extract the raw materials  
8 for these products; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 75% of global urban  
10 infrastructure that will exist in 2050 has yet to be  
11 constructed; and

12 WHEREAS, Global emissions can be cut by 70% to 80% through  
13 the use of alternative production materials, industrializing  
14 cement use and optimizing building design; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, as a leader in energy in the United  
16 States, emits nearly 1% of global emissions; and

17 WHEREAS, The largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions in  
18 Pennsylvania is the industrial sector, specifically industries  
19 in cement manufacturing, iron and steel production; and

20 WHEREAS, As part of the Pennsylvania Priority Climate Action  
21 Plan and its goal of industrial decarbonization, the Department  
22 of Environmental Protection plans to support State level buy-  
23 clean initiatives to help grow demand for low-carbon  
24 construction materials in steel and cement; and

25 WHEREAS, There are many options for sustainable building  
26 materials such as aerated concrete, recycled steel and glass,  
27 reclaimed wood, straw bale, cork, rammed earth, earth blocks and  
28 bamboo; and

29 WHEREAS, It is important to understand which sustainable  
30 building materials would be suitable for infrastructure in

1 Pennsylvania; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
3 State Government Commission to study and issue a report on the  
4 feasibility and implementation of methods and criteria for  
5 expanding construction requirements to use more sustainable  
6 building products in State-funded and private construction  
7 projects, and the projected direct and indirect cost savings or  
8 increases for the requirements if adopted; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
10 report of its findings to the Environmental Resources and Energy  
11 Committee of the House of Representatives, the Housing and  
12 Community Development Committee of the House of Representatives  
13 and the Labor and Industry Committee of the House of  
14 Representatives within 180 days of the adoption of this  
15 resolution.