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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 236 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY STEFANO AND RESCHENTHALER, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
NOVEMBER 28, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 545, the  
2 United States Commission on the Organization of Petroleum  
3 Exporting Countries Act, and requesting that President Donald  
4 J. Trump sign H.R. 545 into law.

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has abundant  
6 natural resources, including energy resources, and much of this  
7 Commonwealth's economy, businesses and jobs are directly related  
8 to these resources; and

9 WHEREAS, The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting  
10 Countries (OPEC) has deliberately and routinely influenced the  
11 price of oil by manipulating global supply, most recently seen  
12 in 2014 when the price of oil fell as the cartel maintained high  
13 production in response to growing United States shale  
14 production; and

15 WHEREAS, Jobs in the Pennsylvania oil and gas sector fell  
16 from 23,525 in 2014 to 13,925 in 2016, with more than 2,300 lost  
17 in drilling and 6,200 lost in support services; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Industry rated oil and  
19 gas extraction as a "hi-decline" industry, with employment

1 falling 16.1% from the third quarter of 2015 to the third  
2 quarter of 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, Rig counts in Pennsylvania fell from 56 in 2014 to  
4 20 in 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, Since January 2015, 268 oil and gas companies have  
6 filed for bankruptcy in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is an energy-producing state, where  
8 crude oil production in 2016 fell 2,000 barrels per day (bpd) to  
9 17,000 bpd, the first year-over-year decline since 1999; and

10 WHEREAS, Russian government-owned Rosneft could own a  
11 significant stake in United States energy resources and  
12 infrastructure in the Western Hemisphere and undermine American  
13 energy security and national security if Venezuela's Petr6leos  
14 de Venezuela, S.A. fails to repay a \$1.5 billion loan, for which  
15 a major stake in Citgo was used as collateral; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
17 urge the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 545, the  
18 United States Commission on the Organization of Petroleum  
19 Exporting Countries Act, and request that President Donald J.  
20 Trump sign H.R. 545 into law; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That, if Congress does not pass H.R. 545, President  
22 Trump take executive action to establish and appoint a one-year  
23 commission of experts to investigate OPEC and make  
24 recommendations to counter market manipulation and price  
25 volatility caused by the cartel and State-owned oil companies,  
26 and to help protect our nation's energy and national security;  
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
29 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of  
30 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from

1 Pennsylvania.