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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 916 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, O'NEILL AND WATSON, JUNE 8, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 8, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of  
2 Defense to take all necessary action to ensure that the  
3 residents of Horsham, Warminster and Warrington Townships in  
4 Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe drinking water, to  
5 discover the extent of the contamination, provide complete  
6 remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and to  
7 provide ongoing biomonitoring to residents and military  
8 personnel who have been exposed to the water contamination  
9 from compounds previously used at the former Willow Grove  
10 Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base.

11 WHEREAS, The United States military used foam containing  
12 perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid  
13 (PFOA), unregulated contaminants, in firefighting training at  
14 two former bases, Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve  
15 Base in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, and Naval Air  
16 Warfare Center in Warminster Township, Bucks County; and

17 WHEREAS, The chemicals are now appearing in elevated levels  
18 in public and private water wells; and

19 WHEREAS, PFOS and PFOA are "extremely persistent in the  
20 environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation  
21 processes," according to the Environmental Protection Agency  
22 (EPA). The EPA also states: "The toxicity, mobility and

1 bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential  
2 adverse effects for the environment and human health"; and

3 WHEREAS, A growing body of science has established  
4 associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health  
5 effects, including a variety of cancers; and

6 WHEREAS, The chemicals were first discovered in local public  
7 water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing  
8 program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in several public water  
9 wells being taken offline; and

10 WHEREAS, On Thursday, May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update  
11 to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly  
12 reduces the amount considered safe in drinking water. In the  
13 worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount  
14 previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over  
15 the recommended limits; and

16 WHEREAS, The new recommended levels have resulted in  
17 officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster  
18 Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer  
19 Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water  
20 wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and  
21 Warminster Townships and nearly 150 private wells; and

22 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of  
23 Pennsylvania acknowledges the efforts thus far, although more  
24 needs to be done to fully address this situation; therefore be  
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
27 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress  
28 of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to  
29 expeditiously determine if a Federal drinking water standard  
30 should be issued for PFOSs and PFOAs that can be enforced in the

1 same manner as lead and arsenic; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Environmental Protection  
4 Agency and the Department of Defense to take all necessary  
5 action to ensure that the residents of Horsham, Warminster and  
6 Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe  
7 drinking water and to discover the extent of the contamination,  
8 provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health  
9 consequences and provide ongoing biomonitoring to residents and  
10 military personnel who have been exposed to the water  
11 contamination from compounds previously used at the former  
12 Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
15 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of  
16 each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from  
17 Pennsylvania, to the Environmental Protection Agency and to the  
18 Department of Defense.