
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 384 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, JUNE 3, 2016

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, JUNE 3, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to
2 work with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take all
3 necessary action to ensure that the communities of Horsham,
4 Warminster and Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks
5 Counties have safe drinking water and to direct the United
6 States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States
7 Department of Defense to discover the extent of the
8 contamination problem, provide complete remediation, fully
9 evaluate the health consequences, and provide assistance to
10 residents and military personnel who have been impacted by
11 the water contamination from compounds previously used on
12 military installations.

13 WHEREAS, Decades after the United States Navy used an
14 unregulated contaminant in firefighting training on two former
15 bases, Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in
16 Horsham and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster, in Montgomery
17 and Bucks Counties, the chemicals are appearing in elevated
18 levels in public and private water wells; and

19 WHEREAS, The chemicals, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and
20 perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are used in a variety of products
21 such as fabric, carpets, nonstick cookware and firefighting
22 foam; and

23 WHEREAS, PFOS and PFOA are "extremely persistent in the

1 environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation
2 processes," according the United States Environmental Protection
3 Agency (EPA). The EPA also states, "The toxicity, mobility and
4 bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential
5 adverse effects for the environment and human health"; and

6 WHEREAS, A growing body of science has established
7 associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health effects
8 including a variety of cancers; and

9 WHEREAS, The chemicals were first discovered in local public
10 water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing
11 program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in a health advisory that
12 took several public water wells offline; and

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

19 WHEREAS, The new recommended levels have resulted in
20 officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster
21 Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer
22 Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water
23 wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and
24 Warminster Townships and an estimated 80 private wells; and

25 WHEREAS, While the Senate of Pennsylvania acknowledges the
26 current efforts of the EPA and the Department of Defense (DOD)
27 as well as the Department of Environmental Protection to provide
28 bottled water to local residents, more needs to be done to fully
29 address this situation; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 urge the President, the Congress of the United States and the
2 EPA to expeditiously determine if a Federal drinking water
3 standard should be issued for PFOSs and PFOAs that can be
4 enforced in the same manner as lead and arsenic; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the President
7 and the Congress of the United States to work with the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take all necessary action to
9 ensure that the communities of Horsham, Warminster and
10 Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe
11 drinking water and to direct the EPA and the DOD to use all
12 their resources to discover the extent of the contamination,
13 provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health
14 consequences and provide assistance to residents and military
15 personnel who have been impacted by the water contamination from
16 these former military installations; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the Congress
18 of the United States to consider the appropriation of additional
19 funds to the EPA and DOD to address this issue; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
23 each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from
24 Pennsylvania, to the United States Environmental Protection
25 Agency and to the United States Department of Defense.