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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 531 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, DONATUCCI, CHARLTON, COMITTA, DAVIDSON,  
DAVIS, DeLISSIO, DRISCOLL, FITZGERALD, GAINNEY, HANNA,  
W. KELLER, KORTZ, D. MILLER, MURT, NEILSON, PASHINSKI,  
ROEBUCK, SOLOMON, THOMAS, VAZQUEZ, WATSON, LONGIETTI,  
P. COSTA, YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, DEASY AND D. COSTA,  
OCTOBER 10, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
OCTOBER 10, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to maintain  
2 Philadelphia refineries' pipeline access to western  
3 Pennsylvania markets by denying Laurel Pipe Line Company,  
4 L.P.'s, application, thereby supporting jobs and economic  
5 growth in Philadelphia and southeastern Pennsylvania.

6 WHEREAS, Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P., (Laurel) filed its  
7 original certificate of public convenience with the Pennsylvania  
8 Public Utility Commission (PUC) in 1957 for the construction and  
9 operation of the Laurel Pipeline, which provides for the  
10 transportation of liquid petroleum products through a 350-mile  
11 pipeline extending from points of origin near Philadelphia to  
12 various destinations westward across this Commonwealth and  
13 terminating west of Pittsburgh; and

14 WHEREAS, Laurel's pipeline service has remained almost  
15 unchanged for nearly 60 years, providing refiners on the east  
16 coast, particularly the southeastern Pennsylvania area, the  
17 ability to move their products into Pittsburgh-area markets; and

1       WHEREAS, On November 14, 2016, Laurel filed a line reversal  
2 application with the PUC to change the direction of petroleum  
3 products transportation services to delivery points west of  
4 Eldorado, Pennsylvania; and

5       WHEREAS, The change would end the westward flow of petroleum  
6 from southeastern Pennsylvania at Eldorado before it reaches  
7 Pittsburgh-area delivery locations; and

8       WHEREAS, Since the reversal application was filed, several  
9 parties have filed protests urging the PUC to deny the  
10 application; and

11       WHEREAS, The Laurel Pipeline reversal would significantly  
12 restrict southeastern Pennsylvania refiners' access to western  
13 Pennsylvania markets and would therefore impact the economic  
14 viability of these critical facilities; and

15       WHEREAS, Numerous members of the Senate and House of  
16 Representatives, as well as other local elected officials  
17 throughout this Commonwealth, have expressed their concerns to  
18 the PUC regarding the application and its potential impact on  
19 Pennsylvania consumers and southeastern Pennsylvania refiners;  
20 and

21       WHEREAS, Pittsburgh-area fuel retailers and marketers are  
22 currently able to purchase wholesale fuel products from either  
23 the midwest or the east coast depending on price and  
24 availability; and

25       WHEREAS, A Laurel Pipeline reversal would eliminate this  
26 option, making the retailers and marketers vulnerable to price  
27 spikes and supply shortages in the midwest and destroying the  
28 competitive market environment while also raising consumer fuel  
29 prices; and

30       WHEREAS, Laurel claims that the line reversal will result in

1 no public harm as alternative options exist for current pipeline  
2 customers to ship their products, including trucking products  
3 from various areas throughout this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, The application fails to establish that no public  
5 harm will result from these alternative transportation methods  
6 and fails to establish that these methods are economically  
7 viable to east coast and southeastern Pennsylvania refiners or  
8 that alternative transportation methods such as trucking are  
9 even feasible, given highway and product storage restraints; and

10 WHEREAS, Even if trucking is a viable option, the significant  
11 increase in truck traffic envisioned by Laurel would impact the  
12 safety of Pennsylvania highways and increase the amount of  
13 maintenance required to these highways, the cost of which is  
14 ultimately paid for by the residents of this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, Southeastern Pennsylvania refiners provide thousands  
16 of family sustaining jobs with significant health, welfare and  
17 retirement benefits, including a large number of contractor and  
18 other indirect jobs; and

19 WHEREAS, Southeastern Pennsylvania refiners also provide a  
20 critical supply of petroleum products to the residents of this  
21 Commonwealth and the east coast in times of natural disaster and  
22 other crises, such as during Hurricane Sandy in 2012 when the  
23 Commonwealth failed to experience supply shortages and price  
24 spikes that were seen in New Jersey and New York; and

25 WHEREAS, A loss of critical southeastern Pennsylvania  
26 refining capacity would be detrimental to the public interest of  
27 this Commonwealth; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
29 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to maintain Philadelphia  
30 refineries' pipeline access to western Pennsylvania markets by

1 denying Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P.'s, application, thereby  
2 supporting jobs and economic growth in Philadelphia and  
3 southeastern Pennsylvania.