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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 161 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY HUTCHINSON, MCGEEHAN, BAKER, BARRAR, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRENNAN, BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, KILLION, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MCCALL, MCILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MENSCH, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STERN, SWANGER, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 18, 2009

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 18, 2009

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## A RESOLUTION

Designating the week of May 3 through 9, 2009, as "Drinking Water Week" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, While 80% of the earth's surface is covered with water, only 1% of that water is suitable for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, Groundwater, the water that soaks into the soil from raindrops and moves downward to fill cracks and other openings in beds of rock and sand, makes up about 90% of the fresh water on earth, not including polar icecaps; and

WHEREAS, Individual water wells tapping groundwater resources provide high-quality water to many homeowners and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Few people consider water supply when choosing a

home or when taking a stand on local water supply regulations;  
and

WHEREAS, An estimated 2,200 municipally owned or investor-owned community drinking water systems provide high-quality water to homeowners and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State drinking water standards are upheld by the Department of Environmental Protection for all of those systems; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission regulates the rates and service of approximately 118 investor-owned water companies in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is to ensure that safe and reliable service is provided to ratepayers at a reasonable price; and

WHEREAS, PENNVEST (the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority) is the State agency that provides low-cost financial assistance for infrastructure improvements to community drinking water systems; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing interagency cooperation among the Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and PENNVEST strengthens drinking water system viability, enhances service, increases economies of scale, regionally maximizes efficient water supply and use and fosters economic development; and

WHEREAS, A new State water plan has been developed to coordinate regional, county and local water allocation and use, land development planning and related zoning requirements under Act 220 of 2002; and

WHEREAS, The American Water Works Association established "National Drinking Water Week" more than 30 years ago to call

attention to water as a precious natural resource; and

WHEREAS, Water conservation and water quality maintenance are essential to this Commonwealth and our nation; and

WHEREAS, Because the service provided by viable community drinking water systems is generally available instantaneously on a 24-hour basis, many of us take safe and reliable drinking water for granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the week of May 3 through 9, 2009, as "Drinking Water Week" in Pennsylvania to heighten awareness of drinking water treatment, monitoring, distribution and related costs and urge all residents of this Commonwealth to protect our watersheds, conserve our precious drinking water supply and preserve its superior quality.