
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 151 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, RABB, KENYATTA, SCHLOSSBERG, OTTEN,
D. WILLIAMS, DELLOSO, GUENST, KRAJEWSKI, SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN,
HILL-EVANS, VITALI, KIRKLAND AND N. NELSON, OCTOBER 26, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
OCTOBER 26, 2021

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the 17
2 principles of Environmental Justice that were presented to
3 delegates at the First National People of Color Environmental
4 Leadership Summit.

5 WHEREAS, The First National People of Color Environmental
6 Leadership Summit was held October 24 through 27, 1991, in
7 Washington, DC; and

8 WHEREAS, Seventeen principles of Environmental Justice were
9 adopted at the summit; and

10 WHEREAS, These 17 principles have served as the defining
11 document and basis for the grassroots movement for environmental
12 justice; and

13 WHEREAS, Gathered together at the summit, delegates
14 established a national and international movement on behalf of
15 all people of color to fight the destruction of lands and
16 communities and to re-establish their spiritual interdependence
17 to the sacredness of Mother Earth; and

18 WHEREAS, The delegates strove to create a level of respect

1 for differing cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural
2 world and individuals' roles in healing themselves, ensuring
3 environmental justice and to promote economic alternatives that
4 would contribute to the development of environmentally safe
5 livelihoods; and

6 WHEREAS, The adoption of the principles was also a step
7 toward securing the political, economic and cultural liberation
8 for all people of color that had been denied during the more
9 than 500 years of colonization and oppression; and

10 WHEREAS, Under these principles, Environmental Justice
11 affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the
12 interdependence of all species and the right to be free from
13 ecological destruction; and

14 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice demands that public policy be
15 based on mutual respect and justice for all people free from any
16 form of discrimination or bias; and

17 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical,
18 balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in
19 the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living
20 things; and

21 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice calls for universal protection
22 from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of
23 toxic or hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that
24 threatens the fundamental right to clean air, land, water and
25 food; and

26 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice affirms the fundamental right
27 to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-
28 determination of all people; and

29 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice demands the cessation of the
30 production of all toxins, hazardous wastes and radioactive

1 materials, and that all past and current producers be held
2 strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the
3 containment at the point of production; and

4 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice demands the right to
5 participate as equal partners at every level of decision making,
6 including needs assessment, planning, implementation,
7 enforcement and evaluation; and

8 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice affirms the right of all
9 workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being
10 forced to choose between unsafe working conditions and
11 unemployment and the right of those who work at home to be free
12 from environmental hazards; and

13 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice protects the right of victims
14 of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and
15 reparations for damages as well as quality health care; and

16 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice considers governmental acts of
17 environmental injustice a violation of international law, the
18 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations
19 Convention on Genocide; and

20 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice must recognize a special legal
21 relationship of Native Americans to the United States Government
22 through treaties, agreements, compacts and covenants affirming
23 sovereignty and self-determination; and

24 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice affirms the need for urban and
25 rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and
26 rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural
27 integrity of all our communities and providing fair access for
28 all people to the full range of resources; and

29 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice calls for the strict
30 enforcement of principles of informed consent and a halt to the

1 testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and
2 vaccinations on people of color; and

3 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice opposes the destructive
4 operations of multinational corporations; and

5 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice opposes military occupation,
6 repression and exploitation of lands, people, cultures and other
7 life forms; and

8 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice calls for the education of
9 present and future generations which emphasizes social and
10 environmental issues based on our experience and an appreciation
11 of our diverse cultural perspectives; and

12 WHEREAS, Environmental Justice requires that we as
13 individuals make personal and consumer choices to consume as
14 little of Mother Earth's resources and produce as little waste
15 as possible and make the conscious decision to challenge and
16 reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural
17 world for present and future generations; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
19 recognize the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the 17
20 principles of Environmental Justice that were presented to
21 delegates at the First National People of Color Environmental
22 Leadership Summit.