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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 229 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY DUSH, YUDICHAK, FLYNN, ARGALL, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
MARTIN, HUTCHINSON, GORDNER, PITTMAN AND STEFANO,  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study of the economic, environmental and health impacts  
3 relating to development of the critical mineral industry in  
4 this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, Critical minerals and rare earth elements are vital  
6 to the economy and the technological development of society; and

7 WHEREAS, China and other foreign entities dominate the global  
8 market on critical minerals; and

9 WHEREAS, These foreign actors produce the minerals in  
10 unregulated and unsafe manners that can lead to long-lasting  
11 harm to the environment, and may pose a threat to national  
12 security and the global supply chain; and

13 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has an abundance of critical  
14 minerals from waste material from coal mining; and

15 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State University has been  
16 researching and developing cutting-edge processes to extract  
17 critical minerals and rare earth elements from coal waste and  
18 other material to extract these elements; therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
2 Commission to conduct a study examining critical mineral and  
3 rare earth elements extraction, particularly from coal waste and  
4 other waste materials, including:

5           (1) the estimated availability of critical minerals and  
6 rare earth elements in this Commonwealth;

7           (2) the technology and infrastructure necessary to  
8 extract critical minerals and rare earth elements; and

9           (3) the estimated economic value of the critical  
10 minerals and rare earth elements;

11 and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report  
13 on potential environmental and health impacts that may arise  
14 from the development of the critical mineral industry in  
15 Pennsylvania; and be it further

16       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission examine  
17 the activities of other states relating to critical mineral and  
18 rare earth elements extraction, particularly from coal waste and  
19 other waste materials; and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission provide  
21 recommendations on how the Commonwealth might address the  
22 development of the critical mineral industry in Pennsylvania;  
23 and be it further

24       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission submit a  
25 report within one year of the adoption of this resolution.