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**RECOGNIZING AMERICA’S UNCONVENTIONAL NATURAL GAS RESOURCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE AMERICA’S ENERGY SECURITY, ECONOMIC VITALITY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**

**WHEREAS**, America’s natural gas is an abundant, affordable, clean burning, secure and domestic source of primary energy; and

**WHEREAS**, clean burning natural gas is critical to American manufacturing jobs, to farmers for fertilizer and energy, and to help reduce air emissions because of its low carbon-content; and

**WHEREAS**, the natural gas industry supports nearly 3 million jobs and adds about \$385 billion\* to the national economy; and

**WHEREAS**, having abundant, clean-burning, domestic, reliable supplies of natural gas means more affordable and more stable prices for American consumers and American business; and

**WHEREAS**, groundwater and air quality are of critical importance and should continue to be protected; and

**WHEREAS**, recent technological innovations have unlocked vast new supplies of unconventional natural gas, allowing the nation to get to the energy it needs today, and transforming our energy future; and

**WHEREAS**, the domestic and secure reserves within our borders offer us the opportunity to become increasingly energy secure; and

**WHEREAS**, the natural gas industry is a huge growth area for new jobs; in fact, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry reports that more than 200,000 are supported by the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania alone\*\*, generating billions in revenue and economic development across the Commonwealth; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, members of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) recognize the value of a safe, affordable domestic supply of energy and support increasing the supply of domestic natural gas by encouraging the industry to employ best

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\*API, “Natural Gas is America’s new energy frontier,” [www.api.org](http://www.api.org), February 10, 2012.  
\*\*Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, “Marcellus Shale Fast Facts,” [http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Marcellus\\_Shale\\_Fast\\_Facts\\_Viewing.pdf](http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Marcellus_Shale_Fast_Facts_Viewing.pdf), February 2012.

37 exploration and development practices and the best available technology to safely and  
38 sustainably develop a domestic source of energy which creates jobs and lowers our Country's  
39 dependence on foreign energy sources.

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41 As introduced this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

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43 Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Jim Cawley, Pennsylvania

44 Lt. Governor Gregory Francis, USVI

45 Co-Sponsors: Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, Wisconsin

46 Lt. Governor Mark Darr, Arkansas

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\*API, "Natural Gas is America's new energy frontier," [www.api.org](http://www.api.org), February 10, 2012.

\*\*Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, "Marcellus Shale Fast Facts,"

[http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Marcellus\\_Shale\\_Fast\\_Facts\\_Viewing.pdf](http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Marcellus_Shale_Fast_Facts_Viewing.pdf), February 2012.