**Congress Bills**

**for the**

**Pittsburgh North Tournament**

**2/4/2012**

**1 A BILL TO IMPLEMENT A SEVERANCE TAX ON**

**NATURAL GAS EXTRACTED FROM THE**

**MARCELLUS SHALE FORMATION**

BE IT ENACTED by the Student Congress here assembled:

Section 1: A severance tax will be imposed upon each and every natural gas producer who uses water resources from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale Formation.

Section 2: The tax shall not be less than nor exceed one dollar ($1.00) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet of natural gas.

Section 3: Said tax will be paid into a dedicated fund for the preservation, cleaning and improvement of the streams, rivers, and waterways of the Commonwealth.

Section 4: This tax program and its benefits will be under the oversight of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 5: This bill shall have the effect of law within 18 months of passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethel Park High School

**2 A resolution to redistribute the wealth of the United States**

WHEREAS, 15.1% of Americans are considered “in poverty” by the United States Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Recent years have shown a split between the upper and lower class, as well as a shrinking middle class; and

WHEREAS, Many corporate executives have increased their personal finances due to poor business practices at the expense of their employees; and

WHEREAS, Economic strains cause millions of American families to lack the funding for crucial necessities such as healthcare and adequate shelter; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Student Congress here assembled, that 95% of all assets and future incomes of United States citizens be absorbed by the federal government; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That 40% of the money absorbed by the federal government go to government works such as road repair mail delivery, and 60% of the money absorbed be equally distributed among all children and working adults in the United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sewickley Academy

**3 An Act to Tax Academic Shortcomings**

WHEREAS: According to the Commonwealth Foundation, Pennsylvania spends approximately 25 billion dollars per year on education;

WHEREAS: This is a 133% increase on per-pupil spending since 1980, when 4 billion dollars per year were spent on education. This increase in spending comes at a time when the national deficit is approximately 14.7 trillion dollars;

WHEREAS: Many students take advantage of the education they receive with government funds by slacking off in school, having little incentive to get adequate grades, at the expense of taxpayers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1: This act may be cited as, “Intellectual Incentive bill".

SECTION 2: Students that receive an unweighted GPA below 2.0 for 2 or more quarters once beginning high school will be taxed for their incompetence, paying $1000 back to the government per quarter.

SECTION 3: After the first quarter where a student has failed to reach academic standards, they will be given a standardized list of study resources in order to give the student the chance to do better.

SECTION 4: Private schools will be independent of this bill

SECTION 5: Students with special needs or circumstances will be assessed individually by the school they attend.

Sub-SECTION A: Students with mental disabilities will be exempt from this bill.

Sub-SECTION B: Students under special circumstances, such as an illness that requires them to be absent from school frequently, will be required to fill out a standardized form requesting exemption from this bill. The school district will individually determine if the request will be granted.

SECTION 6: This bill shall go into effect 91 days after passage.

Respectfully Submitted

Hampton High School

**4 A Resolution to End the Death Penalty in the United States**

WHEREAS, It states in our pledge of allegiance “One nation UNDER GOD” and

WHEREAS, We are disobeying God and the ten commandments and

WHEREAS, Commandment 6 states thou shall not kill and

WHEREAS, Death penalty is killing those have no need to be killed and

WHEREAS, Those that killed others could be sentenced for a period of time instead of being shot and killed, and

WHEREAS, The death penalty has killed many innocent people

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress here today that the death penalty be made illegal throughout the United States

Respectfully Submitted by

Nicole Shoemaker

Upper St. Clair

**5 A Resolution to Abolish Trials as Adults for Minors**

WHEREAS: Developmental research does not provide a clear cut boundary between adulthood and adolescence.

WHEREAS: It is shown that adolescents cannot control their impulses or foresee the consequences of their actions as adequately as adults.

WHEREAS: Rehabilitation is more beneficial to address then punishment for minors.

WHEREAS: Studies show that children tried in adult courts are more likely to be re-arrested.

WHEREAS: In states such as Florida that allow minors to be prosecuted as adults have the highest juvenile crime rates.

THEREFORE: Let it be resolved by the student congress here assembled, that trials as adults for minors is unjust.

**6 A Resolution to Eliminate Merit Pay   
for Teachers in Public Schools**

WHEREAS merit pay is extremely discriminating against teachers who educate disadvantaged students

WHEREAS merit pay is based upon national standardized tests

WHEREAS students’ standardized scores are not an accurate depiction of a teacher’s instructing ability

WHEREAS teachers cannot provide the intrinsic motivation for students to succeed

WHEREAS a study from 2006 to 2009 performed by the RAND Corporation showed that merit pay did not increase progress within students

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that merit pay for teachers in public schools be eliminated.

**7 A resolution to abolish birthright citizenship   
in the United States**

WHEREAS: Every child born in the United States is automatically granted citizenship regardless of parent legal status.

WHEREAS: Out of 194 nations, the United States is one of only 30 that grant birthright citizenship.

WHEREAS: According to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center of the Census Bureau, in 2008, as many as 340,000 of the 4.3 million babies born in the United States had at least one illegal parent.

WHEREAS: Illegal immigrants use “anchor babies” as a means by which to stay in the United States.

WHEREAS: Misguided intention often leads to child neglect.

WHEREAS: The issue of overpopulation is a growing problem in the United States.

Therefore, be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that birthright citizenship in the United States be abolished.

**8 A Resolution to Legalize Medically Assisted Suicide**

WHEREAS: Terminally ill patients with no other options suffer extreme internal torture, and

WHEREAS: Euthanasia can end a suffering life in a matter of minutes, and

WHEREAS: The definition of euthanasia suggests a painless death, and

WHEREAS: it would otherwise take much longer for the patient to pass away and therefore uses resources that would have been available to other patients who have the will and the potential to survive, and

WHEREAS: physician-assisted suicide only kills willing, competent subjects

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that the United States should legalize medically assisted suicide.

**9 Resolution to start a second language in first grade**

WHEREAS: The brain plasticity theory, the biological predisposition theory, and the imprinting theory all support learning a foreign language at an early age to promote better native language pronunciation.

WHEREAS: As an organism ages, their biological clock affects cellular plasticity, making it more difficult to comprehend and retain language skills.

WHEREAS: In most cases, the second language is spoken free of accent if started by age 6 as opposed to age 12.

WHEREAS: In oral production tests, children learning a second language scored higher in phonology than their older counterparts.

WHEREAS: Low proficiency areas of the brain, corresponding with the first language, can be activated with the learning of a second language.

Therefore be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that schools be mandated to teach languages in 1st grade.

**10 Ban animal testing of products**

WHEREAS: Humans and animals don’t react to products in the same way.

WHEREAS: In some cases despite misleading results through animal testing, the product is still marketed for humans.

WHEREAS: The stress from confinement in a laboratory elicits neurotic behavior that can be injurious and sometimes fatal to the animal.

WHEREAS: Animal testing involves numerous trials of a single product that may require a significant amount of time and money.

THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Student Congress that animal testing of products be banned immediately.

**11 A Resolution to Give the FDA Authority**

**to Regulate Tobacco**

WHEREAS: Tobacco causes 443,000 American deaths every year;

WHEREAS: Rat poison, formaldehyde, and tar are harmful chemicals used in cigarettes;

WHEREAS: New harm reduction cigarettes have been found to be more harmful than conventional cigarettes;

WHEREAS: Advertising by Big Tobacco is often misleading and dangerous;

WHEREAS: regulation will be funded by tobacco industry fees;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The FDA will be given regulatory power over tobacco.

**12 A Resolution to Abolish**

**Early Decision in all Public Colleges**

Whereas: Early Decision discourages students from finding the best school for them that suits their needs, and rather forces them to choose a top college too early in the admission process

Whereas: An article in the New York Times cites researchers whose research suggests that early decisions favor well-off Caucasian students and promotes racial discrimination in the admission process. Furthermore, Professor Moeser at University of North Carolina expressed concern that early decision limited access of poor and minority students to selective institutions.

Whereas: A recent Harvard University study showed that early decision candidates typically had lower SAT scores and weaker qualifications to the school.

Whereas: Early decision does not serve in the college’s best interest to increase the diversity in their student pool. Jerry Lucido, a vice provost at University of North Carolina, stated that, “…Early decision served a more homogenous pool of students solely…”

Whereas: Early decision unfairly short-changes students who are truly unsure of their college selection by decreasing their chances of acceptance into top colleges. John Lattings of John Hopkins University said in a public statement, "It erodes the possibilit[ies] for a kid who really wants time to make their decision."

Therefore: Be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that public colleges in the United States of America be required to remove their early decision acceptance programs.

**13 A Resolution to Ban Genetically Modified Foods**

WHEREAS genetically modified (GM) food causes more problems than solutions.

WHEREAS many organizations such as environmental, religious, and public interest as well as scientists all have concerns about GM foods.

WHEREAS GM foods cause unintended harm to other organisms, in return they reduce effectiveness of pesticides.

WHEREAS GM foods create super weeds resistant to pests.

WHERAS GM foods may result in unfamiliar human and animal health concerns such as allergies, cancer, and degenerative diseases.

WHEREAS GM foods cause birth defects and shortened life expectancy.

WHERAS there have been very few studies about the effects of GM foods and many are inconclusive.

Therefore, let it be resolved that Genetically Modified Foods should be banned.

**14 A Resolution to Support Gay Marriage**

WHEREAS: Marriage is a generally accepted right; and

WHEREAS: Marriage is a religious and moral concept and shouldn’t be discriminated against by the government; and

WHEREAS: All people are entitled to the same rights, regardless of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS: Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts have already legalized gay marriage; and

WHEREAS: Oregon, New Jersey, Washington, and Nevada acknowledge civil unions

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that the United States should legalize gay marriage.

**15 A Resolution to increase funding for the research and increased awareness of endangered species.**

WHEREAS: In the entire world, there are 16,547 endangered species and

WHEREAS: In the United States alone, there are 854 endangered species and

WHEREAS: The rate of deforestation, poaching, and habitat destruction is increasing as the human population is growing and

WHEREAS: These destructive human activities have led to the rate of species extinction to increase by at least 100%

WHEREAS: People are not aware of the issue because they think it does not apply to them and

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the student council here assembled that increased funding should be available to research and provide awareness for endangered species.

**16 A resolution to open the Mexican Border**

Whereas there is an increasing problem with illegal immigration.

Whereas there are 11.5 to 20 million illegal immigrants in the United States

Whereas illegal immigrants are disrupting the census

Whereas illegal immigrants are a drain on the U.S. economy by not paying taxes.

Whereas it would cost the United States Government more than 49 billion dollars to provide border patrol along the Mexican Border.

Whereas thousands of immigrants cross into the United States via illegal traffickers.

Whereas border security is damaging the ecosystem of the U.S.-Mexican Border

Whereas Mexican immigrants provide cheap labor to support the U.S. economy

Whereas the American dream promotes immigration

Whereas the United States should provide the opportunity to all people in need of aid

Whereas the Unites States was founded on the concepts of immigration

Therefore, the United States should open the Mexican Border to all immigrants and provide citizenship to those that seek refuge in the United States.

**17 A Resolution to Permit Cellular Phones in Schools**

WHEREAS: Cellular phones are excellent devices for communication in any emergency, and

WHEREAS: Cellular phones are able to be silenced when required, such as during classes, and turned on only when appropriate, and

WHEREAS: Learning in the classroom could be enhanced by applications run on cellular phones and interconnectedness between phones of students, and

WHEREAS: Students often forget their assignments and cellular phones can be used as a calendar and/or assignment book, and

WHEREAS: When absent, students may be instantly contacted with notes and homework so that they will not fall behind in their classes, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that the government should allow the use of cellular phones in schools.

**18 A Resolution to Raise Taxes for Morbidly Obese People**

WHEREAS: The Center for Disease Control and Protection defines “obese” as having a Body Mass Index of over 30.

WHEREAS: According to the ABC News from July 28, 2010, obese people cost $147 billion dollars directly to the United States of America through medical bills.

WHEREAS: Raising their taxes will provide an incentive for them to get more fit to avoid paying more.

WHEREAS: These taxes will generate more tax revenue.

WHEREAS: More revenue generated in this way will help fund other health programs.

WHEREAS: The revenue generated this way can support more jobs for the U.S. economy.

WHEREAS: The increasing number of fitter people due to the incentive from line 3-4 will lessen the number of diabetics, which further lessen the costs of obesity.

WHEREAS: All of the aforementioned economic benefits will help the U.S. economy to recover from its current situation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that the United States raise taxes for those who can be classified as obese.

**19 A Resolution to Mandate Installation**

**of Critical Security Updates**

WHEREAS: Installation of critical security updates for computer systems should be legally mandated.

WHEREAS: Failure of users to install critical security updates results in unpatched security holes on the computer.

WHEREAS: Computers with unpatched security holes are susceptible to infection by malware such as viruses, spyware, etc.

WHEREAS: The infection of one computer compromises the security of other computers on the same network.

WHEREAS: Global computer security will increase if users install all security updates.

WHEREAS: This is in the best interest of both national and global security.

Therefore, be it resolved by the student congress here assembled that installation of critical security updates for computer systems should be legally mandated.

**20 A Resolution to Counteract the Effects of Global Warming**

WHEREAS: Greenhouse gas emissions have increased dramatically in the past several decades, and

WHEREAS: Such emissions are the main cause of global warming, and

WHEREAS: Global warming and the resultant long-term climatic fluctuations threaten the well-being of the entire globe and its inhabitants, and

WHEREAS: The United States is a main producer of these emissions, and

WHEREAS: Developed countries like the U.S. are the only nations that can currently afford to limit their carbon emissions, and

WHEREAS: Limiting U.S. carbon emissions would be beneficial to both the U.S. and the globe as a whole,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Student Congress assembled here today that the U.S. levy a tax on greenhouse gas emissions by businesses

**21 A resolution to penalize adults 21 years old or older**

**who smoke while in a vehicle with minors.**

WHEREAS: Smoking has been proved to be hazardous to the health of people

WHEREAS: Minors are dependent on adults for legal transportation

WHEREAS: 85% of smoke from cigarettes is inhaled by people other than the smokers

WHEREAS: Smoking has been proved to cause lung, mouth, and throat cancer

WHEREAS: Smoking has been proved to cause respiratory problems, such as chronic asthma

WHEREAS: Chemicals from cigarettes may remain in the car as residue

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED that adults 21 years or older are not permitted to smoke while in a vehicle with minors.