



Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

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Testimony before the Environment, Resources and Energy Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

June 24, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee on House Bill 2277, the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS), a bill that would update and renew the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). The AEPS provides a solid foundation for the diversification of Pennsylvania's energy generation mix and the reliability, resiliency, stability and affordability of energy that are fundamental to the quality of life and economic well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

HB2277 will increase the renewable and clean energy share to 35% by 2035. Pennsylvania is at a critical point: we have become dangerously dependent on one energy resource: gas. Unfortunately, gas has proven to be a very volatile fuel, (no pun intended), with dramatic price fluctuations and steady increases in recent years in response to the war in Ukraine, extreme weather conditions, aging infrastructure and rising international demand. One of the tremendous values of renewable energy is that the energy itself is free. Once the capital cost has been invested, the energy price is very stable over the life of the system.

HB2277 will have significant benefits in all the following ways:

- **Energy affordability-** Once we reach even 5% solar in our generation mix in Pennsylvania, prices will begin to come down for all electricity customers.
- **Resiliency in the face of increasing outages.** Electricity outages are increasing in frequency and duration. Solar plus storage is critical to addressing these problems.
- **Economic Development** – Our state's economy will grow and strengthen as PA begins to compete in the fastest growing sector of the energy economy. Pennsylvania can expand its manufacturing sector and harness engineering and technical expertise in higher education and many other organizations to develop solutions and technologies we need to solve the challenging problems we face.
- **Job Creation** - Conservatively, HB2277 will create more than 15,000 net new jobs statewide.
- **Health Benefits** - More renewable energy will eliminate pollution and clean our air, reducing asthma and other health problems.
- **Farmland Preservation** - By supplementing farmers' income, renewable energy helps farmers hold onto their land and fend off encroachment from big warehouses and other developers.

Pennsylvania has fallen behind our neighboring states in the transition to the clean energy economy. HB2277 is essential to getting the Commonwealth back on track as a leading energy state. Pennsylvania has a proud history as an energy producing and exporting state. Unfortunately, most of our exports are gas, and as our surrounding states and other major customers transition to renewable and clean energy, their appetite market for gas will decline. PA must transition to clean energy or risk being left permanently in the fossil fuel past. HB2277 will help us continue to play a vital role in the clean energy economy.

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