



May 28, 2020

Dear Member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly,

We, the 71 undersigned renewable energy companies, investors, and trade organizations understand the economic and health crisis facing our state and nation. Our companies also struggle to get the state's 10,000 renewable energy workers back to work. As you consider how to rebuild our economy, we encourage you to **look to our industries to create tens of thousands of jobs and bring billions of dollars of private investment into the state that will actually INCREASE STATE AND LOCAL REVENUES.**

We encourage you to pass legislation that will **increase the current Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Tier I goal of 8% with 0.5% solar that flat-lines in May 2021** to a rational level that helps Pennsylvania compete with most neighboring states' targets that are now 50% or higher. **A measured approach that would makes sense for Pennsylvania is a goal of at least 18% by 2025 with 5.5% in-state solar.**

While no data exists for an 18% by 2025 scenario, several independent, economic modeling studies (see our briefing paper) show that moving Pennsylvania to 30% renewables by 2030 with 10% in-state solar would:

- **Create 60,000 – 100,000 jobs** just in the solar industry alone, not to mention thousands more in the wind, low-impact hydro, methane digester and other industries
- **Provide more than \$1.6 billion dollars** annually in fuel and cost savings to Pennsylvanians and generate millions of dollars in property tax revenue to local municipalities and payroll taxes to state's coffers
- **Save many family farms by creating \$2.3 billion in solar lease payments** that provide reliable income to landowners for 20 years, enabling them to keep farming. Pennsylvania lost more than 6,000 farms in the past five years, so renewables can play an important role in preserving our agricultural economy.
- **Diversify our energy mix to protect consumers**; otherwise, natural gas will dominate 70% of our grid by 2040, creating a volatile pricing situation, if we continue with business as usual
- **Lower wholesale electricity costs by \$619 million annually for all customers** by shaving peak demand

During this economic emergency brought about by the unprecedented health crisis, we encourage you to **support at least an incremental approach to renewable energy growth through 2025** so that we don't lose this critical economic opportunity – just at a time when the Commonwealth needs a strong infusion of jobs and investment.

Our industries are ready to serve our state and country and bring family-sustaining jobs to Pennsylvania. Increasing the AEPS goals will bring robust economic development and employment growth – all without requiring tax credits or other programs that deplete state revenues, but actually add to them.

Please find our attached briefing paper that details the benefits of renewable energy to the state. For more information, contact the co-facilitators (*) of the Renewables Work for Pennsylvania coalition, or visit www.renewablesworkforpa.com. Renewables Works for PA is a coalition of 100+ renewable energy businesses working together to strengthen the state's renewable energy markets.

Sincerely,

* *Sharon Pillar*, PA Consultant for **E2** (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

* *Ron Celentano*, President, PA Division of the Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association (**PASEIA**)

* *Bruce Burcat*, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (**MAREC**)

[Contact us at pillarsharon@gmail.com, CelentanoR@aol.com, and marec.org@gmail.com, respectively]

Name	Position	Company/Organization
Andrew Gohn	Eastern Region Director of State Affairs	American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)
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Donald Zimmerman	President / CEO	Alder Energy Systems, LLC
Chris Fraga	Founder & CEO	Alternative Energy Development Group LLC
Bryan Wehler	CEO	ARM Group Enterprises Inc.
Kevin A. Lynch	Managing Director, External Affairs	Avangrid
Giovanni Dubon	Energy Policy Analyst	BayWa r.e.
Josh Beck	Managing Director & CIO	BCI Technology Investments
Ben Zook	Innovator	Belmont Solar
James Noden	CEO	BrightEye Solar, LLC
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Ron Celentano	Solar PV Industry Consultant	Celentano Energy Services
Jack Barnett	President	Clean Energy Cooperative Inc.
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Name	Position	Company/Organization
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