

August 31, 2020

[Via email to: broae@pahousegop.com](mailto:broae@pahousegop.com)

Honorable Brad Roae
Majority Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee
Harrisburg, PA 17120

[Via email to: rmatzie@pahouse.net](mailto:rmatzie@pahouse.net)

Honorable Robert Matzie
Democratic Chairman, House Consumer Affairs Committee
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Support of H.B. 531

Dear Representative Roae and Representative Matzie:

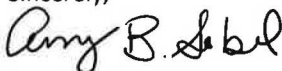
Thank you for scheduling a committee hearing on community solar for 1 September 2020, and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. On behalf of Audubon Pennsylvania, I respectfully urge you to support H.B. 531 and to call for a vote in committee at the earliest possible date. Audubon's peer-reviewed research shows that climate change is the number one threat to North American birds, with over 84 Pennsylvania birds, including the Scarlet Tanager and Wood Thrush, facing shrinking ranges due to extreme weather and shifting seasons. A transition away from fossil fuels to solar will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby reducing the earth's warming and impacts on birds, as well as other wildlife and people. H.B. 531 provides a path to this transition, offering environmental as well as economic benefits.

Specifically, with H.B. 531, community solar will:

- Create new markets for solar, allowing for greater participation in the solar economy by individuals, businesses, and farmers.
- Offer economic benefits of solar to everyone regardless of where they live, creating opportunities for families and businesses to lower and stabilize their electricity bills.
- Create more clean energy jobs statewide, increasing solar jobs by 25% (500 MW).
- Increase the supply of clean, pollution-free electricity coming onto the grid and help diversify our energy supply.
- Help the recovery of bee populations that benefit agriculture, with solar installations now including native plants and pollinator-friendly habitat.
- Help Pennsylvania achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 26% by 2025.

As community solar will benefit birds and wildlife as well as people, we urge you as Majority Chairman and Democratic Chairman of the House Consumer Affairs Committee to support H.B. 531 and to call for a vote in committee at the earliest possible date. Thank you again for the opportunity to present this testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Amy B. Sobel
Vice President, Atlantic Flyway