

Pennsylvania House Majority Chair Brad Roae  
Pennsylvania House Democratic Chair Rob Matzie  
Pennsylvania House Majority Executive Director Phillip Kirchner  
Pennsylvania House Democratic Executive Director Elizabeth Rosentel

Dear Madam and Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of AC Power, LLC to express our company's support for HB 531 and to highlight industry support for bipartisan community solar legislation that will provide savings for consumers and provide energy choice; create jobs across the Commonwealth; open revenue streams for farmers and other landowners; and bolster Pennsylvania's economy without raising taxes. This is an unprecedented and challenging time of great need for citizens. We believe that HB 531 can help alleviate some of that hardship.

AC Power is a New York-based, certified women-business enterprise (WBE) developer and investor in renewable power generation. We put unproductive land into productive use and add renewable energy to the grid by partnering with property owners who desire a more stable and diversified electric supply and want to generate steady long-term revenues with reduced electricity bills. We typically focus developing solar projects on brownfields such as landfills, quarry sites, and abandoned mine land sites.

AC Power has built strong partnerships with stakeholders across the Commonwealth, including engineers, EPC firms, lawyers, land conservationists, nonprofit organizations, Commonwealth regulatory staff, private and municipal landowners, landfill operators, and beekeepers with the hope that the passage of solar-enabling legislation such as HB 531 will permit projects that our company has deemed feasible after early due diligence to move forward. We are engaged with potential development partners and landowners in counties spanning Pennsylvania that include Beaver, Blair, Chester, Franklin, Greene, Lancaster, Luzerne, and Wayne.

Briefly, community solar grants residents and business owners the opportunity to buy a subscription to a solar farm that is not directly installed on their home or business. Instead, the energy produced by the solar farm is monitored and added to the local grid. This provides a way for non-traditional solar customers, such as low and moderate-income customers, residents of multifamily dwellings, and renters who do not have rooftop control, to access the benefits of solar energy, exercise their energy choice and save money on their electric bills. After the initial costs of building a solar farm are met by the developer, the sun provides the needed energy and the ongoing costs are lower than those of traditional energy sources. Those savings are passed along to consumers who subscribe to a solar farm under a community solar program.

Beyond this, AC Power strives to engage in sustainable land improvements, including the establishment of native vegetation and pollinator-friendly species to enhance the local environment and aesthetics of the solar project facility. AC Power is in discussions with Pennsylvania-based nonprofits and engineers to determine how to economically implement these site improvements along with solar development.

Some of the working relationships that AC Power has developed with Pennsylvania-based partners are on hold or moving at a slower pace as we work for and await solar-enabling legislation in the Commonwealth. As our company struggles to do business during these uncertain times, we focus our resources on development opportunities where projects and existing programs enable us to do business. Some existing programs in adjacent states allow for this. For example, our firm was awarded several projects in the initial New Jersey Community Solar Program. AC Power is now primarily focused on developing community solar projects in markets that adopt favorable policy. With this expertise, AC Power hopes to bring similar projects and the associated electricity bill savings to consumers in Pennsylvania pending the passage of support state-level policy.

The development of community solar projects will allow for the creation of jobs, the repurposing of land to promote energy savings and choice while bringing the state, municipalities, and private landowners revenue. We kindly request that our testimony is noted and shared and thank you for your tireless efforts and service.

Sincerely,  
Tina Carr

Tina Carr, Policy Director  
AC Power, LLC  
465 Grand Street  
Suite 5  
New York NY 10002