



To: Members of the Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

Re: Advanced Energy United Letter of Support for House Bill 1467 and Updated AEPS

To Whom It May Concern,

Advanced Energy United ('United') is writing in support of House Bill 1467, which would increase Pennsylvania's goals under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act and supporting a new community solar program. This legislation presents an opportunity for Pennsylvania to secure its status as a national energy leader, while creating jobs and supporting local communities in the process.

United is an industry association that educates and advocates for policies that allow our member companies to compete to repower our economy with 100% clean, reliable, and affordable energy. We represent over 100 businesses working across the energy sector, including large-scale and distributed renewables, geothermal, energy storage, energy efficiency, transmission developers, electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers, charging infrastructure providers, and more.

For years, Pennsylvania has been a leader in the energy industry. Today, Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of energy and third largest generator of electricity in the United States. To date, that leadership has been rooted in fossil fuels, but our industries want to help Pennsylvania use clean energy solutions to maintain its energy leadership into the future. Unfortunately, just 3% of Pennsylvania's total electricity production comes from clean energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydropower, ranking the Commonwealth at 45th in the nation in total clean energy production. One reason for this is simply that Pennsylvania has not done as much as other states to create an energy policy landscape that supports clean energy investments.

The good news is that Pennsylvania has remarkable clean energy potential that our industries are excited to develop, and in doing so, help grow the Commonwealth's economy and support local communities. The advanced energy industry is a job creator for Pennsylvania, and state policymakers should make the most of the opportunities that this industry presents, especially given the diversity of jobs our companies offer. As of 2021, nearly half of all new jobs in the

advanced energy industry in Pennsylvania were in occupations that did not require a bachelor's degree.

United believes strongly that Pennsylvania must update and expand the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). While Pennsylvania's adoption of AEPS in 2005 was a critical market signal in support of clean energy, the Commonwealth's Tier I requirement of 8% by 2021 now lags well behind other states that have renewed and expanded their renewable energy targets. Without a long overdue update to the current AEPS as a foundational clean energy policy, Pennsylvania is likely to continue to lose out on investment opportunities to neighboring states with stronger renewable portfolio standards. The clean energy industry supports legislation that would update Pennsylvania's AEPS goals to *at least* a '30x30' approach – increasing the AEPS Tier I goal from 8% to 30% by 2030. Additionally, United supports Pennsylvania going *beyond* 30x30, and would encourage policymakers to consider amending HB 1467 or other AEPS bills to include broader targets, such as 40% or 50% Tier I requirements, for years beyond 2030. Such a policy would send a clear market signal to the advanced energy industry that Pennsylvania is committed to supporting renewable energy well into the future.

United also supports Pennsylvania adopting a community solar program to further encourage clean energy development in the state. Community solar, a competitive program adopted by several states across the country, would allow retail electric customers to buy or lease a portion of an off-site solar array that would supply them with 100% clean solar energy. This program offers the option for renters, homeowners, and businesses to utilize clean energy if they are unable to install solar panels on their property for any number of reasons. Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, policies and regulations have not been adopted to authorize community solar projects in the Commonwealth. Legislation supporting a competitive community solar program, such as HB 1467, has the potential to create over 12,000 family-sustaining jobs across Pennsylvania while generating nearly \$2 billion in economic activity. This program will ultimately open up further investments in Pennsylvania advanced energy, spur economic development, support the goals of an increased AEPS, and encourage Pennsylvania's electric customers to avail themselves of new options for meeting their energy needs.

For the above reasons, United is proud to support House Bill 1467, which would expand the Commonwealth's AEPS goals and supporting community solar projects for Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania has an untapped potential for new development of advanced energy – if policymakers seize on this opportunity to open the state up for new investment, create jobs, and spur local economies in the process.



If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at nbibby@advancedenergyunited.org or 717-331-9348.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Bibby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nicholas Bibby

Principal and Pennsylvania State Lead

Advanced Energy United

