



**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES and ENERGY
COMMITTEE**

Testimony Of

**Ron Celentano
Pennsylvania Solar & Storage Industries Association (PASSIA)**

Public Hearing on Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard & HB1467

**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
December 11, 2023**

**Pennsylvania Solar & Storage Industries Association (PASSIA)
7821 Flourtown Avenue
Wyndmoor, PA 19038
(215) 740-0439 - Cell
(215) 836-9958 - Office
Email: Ron.Celentano55@gmail.com**

The most recent AEPS bill, HB1467, is the most comprehensive AEPS bill, as it aligns with Governor Shapiro's administration goals of achieving 30% renewable energy by 2030, but it also incorporates goals for all solar markets in the state. HB1467 consists of expanding the AEPS Tier 1 renewable energy requirement to 30% by 2030, which includes 14% in-state solar installation goals, further broken down to 4% distributed generation (DG) solar, 2% community solar and 8% grid-scale solar carve-outs. It is essential to structure these solar carve outs as they have different applications and market drivers.

DG solar allows behind-the-meter customers to generate on-site renewable power which will reduce their electric bills, and can provide reliability and resilience when coupled with storage. DG solar is also most efficient, as delivers generation directly to the on-site and local community loads, reducing conventional generation plant transmission and distribution line losses. In addition, DG solar helps reduce the economic and technical pressure to scale up and overhaul the transmission and distribution infrastructure for increased loads, as customers shift to total electrification of their loads, including electric vehicles and all electric appliances.

Community solar, which is currently not allowed in Pennsylvania (except for regions outside of the Public Utility Commission's jurisdiction), would provide solar access to many customers that can't install solar on-site, such as renters or those customers on properties with physical limitations. Community solar also offers customers reduced electric bills while enhancing local grid reliability.

Grid-scale solar and other renewables can provide the greatest impact to lowering all customers' bills, as it delivers power at the about the same period when the electric demand is high, as well as the high price of electricity. From the PowerGEM/CEI Pennsylvania 2030 Solar Generation Study¹, commissioned by Community Energy, it was found that generating 10% of Pennsylvania's electricity

¹ Community Energy PA Solar Study - <https://www.communityenergyinc.com/pasolarstudy>

2022 summary². But, far more of these jobs exist and continue to grow in Pennsylvania's neighboring states, as their renewable energy goals are far higher than in our state. By comparison to goals in New Jersey (100% by 2030), Maryland (50% by 2030), Delaware (40% by 2025), New York (70% by 2030), and the District of Columbia (100% by 2032), the proposed renewable energy goal of 30% by 2030 for Pennsylvania in HB1467 is very modest. Even Virginia has a renewable energy goal of 30% by 2030. All of these and other states will continue to draw away solar, wind and other renewable energy professional jobs from Pennsylvania, unless our state substantially increases our goals nearly fourfold.

Clearly, increasing the solar goals in Pennsylvania would significantly increase the solar workforce in the state. In fact, one of the prominent conclusions of DEP's 2018 Finding Pennsylvania Solar Future Study³ was that 60,000 to 100,000 jobs would be created from increasing solar production to offset 10% of Pennsylvania's electric consumption. Another study commissioned by Community Energy⁴ targeting the same 10% solar goal reached a similar conclusion of creating more than 65,000 jobs.

Economic Benefits Not To Be Missed

Regarding economic growth, a large portion of solar financing comes from private capital investment, but that is triggered by market indicators such as increasing solar goals, which is now enhanced with Federal tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act. As concluded in the Finding Pennsylvania Solar Future Study and the Community Energy PA Solar Study, increasing the solar goal at least to 10% would create \$9.2 million in private capital investment, \$5.3 billion in local economic benefit, over \$4 billion in wage earnings from over 65,000 new jobs, \$228 million in local tax revenue,

² Clean Jobs – Pennsylvania 2022 - <https://e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Clean-Jobs-Pennsylvania-2022-.pdf>

³ Finding PA Solar Future Study

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OfficeofPollutionPrevention/SolarFuture/Pages/Finding-Pennsylvania%E2%80%99s-Solar-Future.aspx>

⁴ Ibid

Meeting the Grid-Scale Goals

With regard to 8% in-state grid scale solar requirement proposed in HB1467, this would equate to about 6.2 GW_{AC} new solar capacity by 2030. The PJM Queue database currently shows over 23 GW_{AC} of total solar capacity in Pennsylvania as one of the following status levels: active application, engineering/procurement, in construction, or in partial service. Of that, over 0.5 GW of capacity is currently in construction or in partial service in Pennsylvania. Given that the proposed requirement is less than 30% of the current total solar capacity in the PJM Queue for Pennsylvania, it would be expected that this goal will be easily achieved.

The remaining Tier 1 goal of new capacity in HB1467 is 8% (i.e., 30% minus 14% of in-state solar = 16%; however, the current AEPS has already been met 8% of this goal). Across all the PJM states, the PJM Queue database shows over 277 GW_{AC} of solar and wind projects under the status of active application, engineering/procurement, in construction or partially in service. Even if the proposed non in-state solar Tier 1 equivalent new capacity was 10 GW_{AC}, this would be less than 4% of the potential capacity in the PJM Queue; therefore, this goal would easily be met by 2030.

Thank you.