



Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
7821 Flourtown Ave, Wyndmoor, PA 19038 www.phillysolar.org

**Testimony before the Environment, Resources and Energy Committee of the
Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

December 11, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee on House Bill 1467, a bill that would update and renew the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). The AEPS provides a solid foundation for the diversification of Pennsylvania's energy generation mix and the reliability, resiliency, stability and affordability of energy that are fundamental to the quality of life and economic well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

HB1467 will increase renewable energy to 30% by 2030 and will provide an excellent framework for the development of Pennsylvania's own renewable resources by requiring 14% of generation to be solar, and further specifying that all three scales of solar be developed: grid scale, community solar, and distributed generation. All three scales are necessary to ensure that our power supply is resilient and affordable and that all Pennsylvanians have access to affordable solar energy.

Pennsylvania is at a critical point: we have become dangerously dependent on only one energy resource: gas. Unfortunately, gas has proven to be a very volatile fuel, (no pun intended), with dramatic price fluctuations in recent years in response to the war in Ukraine, extreme weather conditions and rising international demand. One of the tremendous values of renewable energy is that the energy itself is free. Once the capital cost has been invested, the energy price is very stable over the life of the system.

HB1467 will have significant benefits in all the following ways:

- **Energy affordability-** Once we reach even 5% solar in our generation mix, prices will begin to come down for all electricity customers.
- **Resiliency in the face of increasing outages.** Electricity outages are increasing in frequency and duration. Solar plus storage is critical to addressing these problems.
- **Economic Development** – Our state's economy will grow and strengthen as PA begins to compete in the fastest growing sector of the energy economy. Pennsylvania can expand its manufacturing capability and harness engineering and technical expertise in higher education and many other organizations to develop solutions and technologies we need to solve the challenging problems we face.
- **Job Creation** - Conservatively, HB1467 will create more than 60,000 net new jobs statewide
- **Health Benefits** - Renewable energy produces minimal pollution and other health risks when compared to fossil fuels or nuclear energy
- **Farmland Preservation** - by supplementing their income, renewable energy helps farmers hold onto their land and fend off encroachment from big warehouses and other developers.

Pennsylvania has fallen behind our neighboring states in the transition to the clean energy economy. HB1467 is essential to getting the Commonwealth back on track as a leading energy state. Pennsylvania has a proud history as an energy producing state. HB1467 will help us continue this vital role.

Liz Robinson, Executive Director, lizhrob2@gmail.com 215-285-2710