



Written Testimony of Devi Ramkissoon on Behalf of the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia
Before the Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
Public Hearing on House Bill 2277: Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS)
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Chair Vitali and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 2277, the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS). I am writing to provide written testimony on behalf of the [Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia](#) (SBN) in support of modernizing Pennsylvania's energy portfolio and advancing the deployment of clean and renewable energy through House Bill 2277. SBN is a membership and advocacy organization that champions values-driven businesses deeply committed to improving their social and environmental impacts. For more than two decades, SBN has empowered businesses across a diverse range of industries to build profitable enterprises that serve community needs, share wealth, and protect the environment. PRESS is a crucial step toward a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable energy future for Pennsylvania. House Bill 2277 presents a unique opportunity to significantly increase the use of clean and renewable energy across the Commonwealth while driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering economic growth. We urge the Committee to advance this critical piece of legislation.

Pennsylvania has a long history of being an energy leader, but it risks losing this status as the nation shifts toward renewable energy. Updating Pennsylvania's renewable energy standards will provide significant economic benefits for the Commonwealth and ensure it remains at the forefront of the energy transition. Earlier this year, MAREC Action, Advanced Energy United, and ACP released a [report](#) showing that implementing a '35% renewable by 2030' policy could create 129,000 new jobs and attract \$13.1 billion in new investment to Pennsylvania over the next six years. From manufacturing and installation to maintenance and research, clean and renewable energy offer a diverse range of employment opportunities. According to E2's recent [Clean Jobs Pennsylvania report](#), clean energy now accounts for one third of energy industry jobs in Pennsylvania, adding nearly 4,000 new workers in 2022. PRESS can support the rapidly growing clean energy sector by establishing robust renewable energy targets that attract further investments to the Commonwealth, accelerating job creation and retention.

Embracing more robust clean and renewable energy generation in Pennsylvania will result in far reaching benefits for our communities and environment in addition to economic development. Local communities will benefit directly from renewable energy projects, which often utilize local businesses and labor. These projects will ensure that the economic benefits are distributed widely and contribute to regional economic development. Furthermore, transitioning to renewable energy sources can lead to significant energy savings for Pennsylvania residents and businesses. Renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind power, have become increasingly cost-competitive with traditional fossil fuels. [Recent modeling by the NRDC](#) shows that the average household in Pennsylvania will save \$329 on electricity bills as a result



of the Governor's proposed energy plan. Investments made through legislation like PRESS would cut consumer energy bills by 1.3% annually over the next two decades. Renewable energy sources are less susceptible to the price volatility associated with fossil fuels. By diversifying our energy mix, Pennsylvania can build a more resilient economy that is better equipped to withstand energy market fluctuations. This stability is crucial for businesses and households alike, providing predictable energy costs and reducing the risk of economic disruptions.

Climate change poses a significant threat to Pennsylvania's environment, public health, and economy. House Bill 2277 represents a proactive approach to meaningfully mitigating these impacts by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon pollution. Lower levels of pollution will reduce the incidence of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, improving the quality of life for Pennsylvanians and lowering healthcare costs. By setting ambitious renewable energy standards, PRESS will help Pennsylvania meet its climate goals, reduce air pollution, and improve the quality of life for our citizens. Additionally, PRESS includes provisions to ensure that the benefits of clean energy are accessible to all Pennsylvanians, particularly those in marginalized and underserved communities. A just and equitable energy transition is central to the mission of the SBN. By prioritizing investments in these areas, the Commonwealth can address historical injustices and ensure that the transition to clean and renewable energy creates opportunities for everyone.

House Bill 2277 is a forward-thinking piece of legislation that aligns with the values of SBN and our business community. By advancing clean and renewable energy, Pennsylvania can create jobs, save money, stimulate economic growth, and help address the effects of climate change. PRESS is not only an investment in our energy future but also a commitment to a more just, equitable, and sustainable Commonwealth. We urge the Committee to advance House Bill 2277 and help pave the way for a brighter, cleaner, and more prosperous future for all Pennsylvanians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Devi Ramkissoon
Executive Director
Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia