

**Testimony of Advanced Energy United**  
**Pennsylvania House of Representatives Environmental Resources & Energy**  
**Committee**  
**Public Hearing on House Bill 2277**  
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**Nicholas Bibby**  
**Principal and Pennsylvania State Lead**  
**Advanced Energy United**

On behalf of Advanced Energy United ('United'), I want to thank Chairman Vitali, members of the committee and staff for inviting testimony on House Bill 2277 and the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS). United is proud to support this legislation, which would increase clean energy development for the Commonwealth, and presents an opportunity for Pennsylvania to secure its status as a national energy leader, while creating jobs and supporting local communities.

United is a national business association, dedicated to educating and advocating for policies that empower our member companies to lead the transition towards a cleaner, reliable, and affordable energy economy. We represent over 100 businesses working across the energy sector, including large-scale and distributed renewables, geothermal, energy storage, energy efficiency and demand response providers, transmission developers, electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers, and EV charging infrastructure providers.

Pennsylvania has long been a national leader in the energy industry, as the second largest producer of energy and third largest generator of electricity in the United States. While that leadership has historically been rooted in fossil fuel production, our industry wants to help Pennsylvania use clean energy solutions to maintain its energy leadership for the future. Currently, just 3% of Pennsylvania's total electricity production comes from clean energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydropower, putting Pennsylvania at 45<sup>th</sup> in the nation for total clean energy production. One primary reason for this is Pennsylvania's lack of policies which support this critical

industry, compared to other states that have created a more supportive energy policy landscape.

There is no doubt that Pennsylvania has tremendous clean energy potential that United's member companies and the broader industry are excited to develop – supporting the Commonwealth's economy and local communities in the process. The advanced energy industry is a job creator for Pennsylvania, and we recommend that state policymakers make the most of the opportunities that this industry presents. In a report written by Gabel Associates and released by Advanced Energy United, the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (MAREC), and the American Clean Power Association, it was concluded that raising Pennsylvania's clean energy requirements under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS) to a 30% Tier I target by 2030 would bring in over \$13.1 billion in private investments over a seven year span. This investment, in turn, could create over 129,000 jobs for the Commonwealth between 2024 and 2035.

United strongly supports Pennsylvania updating and expanding its clean energy targets, under the proposed Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS). Pennsylvania's adoption of the AEPS in 2005 was critical in supporting the Commonwealth's clean energy economy; however, the Tier I requirement of 8% now lags far behind our neighboring states that have renewed and expanded their own targets. Without an update to clean energy targets, Pennsylvania is likely to continue to lose out on investment opportunities to surrounding states that have stronger clean energy standards and requirements.

United therefore supports House Bill 2277, sponsored by Rep. Danielle Friel Otten, which would create PRESS and set a Tier I resource target of 35% by the year 2035, helping to spur the development of clean energy generation like solar and wind. This policy is a step in the right direction for the Commonwealth to cement its status as a clean energy leader, and would send a clear market signal to the advanced energy industry that Pennsylvania is committed to supporting clean energy well into the future.

United also encourages legislators and administration officials to consider changes to HB 2277 which would help to maximize the policy's potential economic and jobs benefits, specifically by ensuring that the policy spurs a robust amount of distributed



generation solar development. First, United recommends that House Bill 2277 be amended to include a specific target or requirement for distributed solar generation, similar to the carveout for solar photovoltaic (PV) technology in Pennsylvania’s current AEPS policy, as this will not only have a positive economic impact on Pennsylvania, but will help to create a more efficient and resilient electric grid. According to a study commissioned by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania’s Solar Future Plan<sup>1</sup>, distributed generation (DG) solar creates twice as many jobs as utility scale renewable jobs, with many jobs based right here in the Commonwealth. Additionally, solar energy produced onsite for a property has a shorter distance to travel than energy from larger scale energy plants, and DG solar loses less electricity during transmission from generation to the customer, all of which helps to create a stronger and more resilient electric grid. Finally, United is proud to represent companies working in the development of smart grid and demand response technologies, which when paired with DG, can allow electric utilities in the Commonwealth to manage the grid more effectively, protecting communities from large scale disruptions.

United also recommends House Bill 2277 be amended to ensure that in-state generation requirements do not have unintended negative consequences on Pennsylvania’s ability to meet its clean energy goals. The legislation as introduced requires 10% of energy sold by an electric company to customers that is used to satisfy Tier I obligations to be generated in-state, with a 1% increase each year until 2050, leading to 30% of all electric energy in the state derived from in-state Tier I resources. United is supportive of clean energy development in Pennsylvania but has concerns with increasing in-state Tier I requirements from 0.5% to 10% by 2030 with no ramp-up period. Our industry would like to work with decision-makers in the Administration and the legislature to examine the implications of this requirement and how it would impact the industry and, if necessary, explore alternative pathways. As representatives of the companies who will be making the investments in development to help Pennsylvania meet the goals under PRESS, United is committed to advocating for and working with the legislature to ensure the goals of PRESS are achievable.

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For the reasons listed above, United strongly supports House Bill 2277, which would expand the Commonwealth's clean energy targets and support the development of clean energy generation in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has a largely untapped potential for new development of advanced, clean energy. We and our members are ready to work with Pennsylvania's policymakers to seize on this opportunity and open the Commonwealth up for new investment, job creation, and economic development. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [nbibby@advancedenergyunited.org](mailto:nbibby@advancedenergyunited.org).

