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**Testimony before the Environment, Resources and Energy Committee of the  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives**  
June 24, 2024

Quaker Action is a group of Friends and others who advocate for sound public policy on climate change and gun control -- issues of particular concern for the Religious Society of Friends. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee on House Bill 2277, the Pennsylvania Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS), a bill that would update and renew the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). This bill is essential to good stewardship of Pennsylvania's beautiful natural environment, and the health of all the Commonwealth's residents. The AEPS is a proven policy that cost-effectively diversifies Pennsylvania's energy generation mix and thus improves reliability, resiliency, and affordability of energy for all Pennsylvanians.

HB2277 will increase renewable and clean energy to 35% by 2035. Pennsylvania has become too dependent on gas. Unfortunately, gas has proven to be a very volatile fuel, with price fluctuations and steady increases in recent years in response to wars, extreme weather, aging infrastructure and rising global demand.

HB2277 will have significant benefits in all the following ways:

- **Energy affordability.** Increasing renewable sources will help stabilize energy costs.
- **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.
- **Job Creation** - HB2277 will create more than 15,000 net new jobs statewide
- **Health Benefits** - More renewable energy eliminates pollution and cleans our air, reducing asthma and other health problems
- **Farmland Preservation** - renewable energy helps farmers hold onto their land and fend off encroachment from big warehouses and other developers.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania has fallen behind in the transition to the clean energy future. PA must transition to clean energy or risk being left permanently in the fossil fuel past. PRESS will help us continue to play a vital role in the clean energy economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Steve Loughin, Ph.D.

Executive Secretary  
Quaker Action Mid-Atlantic Region