

JOHN A. MAHER
MEMBER



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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August 27, 2014

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

RE: Implementation of Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004
Docket No. L-2014-2404361

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

As chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, I received a copy of the August 21, 2014, correspondence to you that included comments for the record by Representatives Fee, Hickernell, Denlinger, Cutler, Aument, Mentzer, and Greiner.

Having devoted considerable research and thought to this topic in recent months, I entirely agree with the views expressed by those representatives.

The 110% standard would accomplish simultaneous injury to Pennsylvania agriculture and AEPS goals. As I am certain that most members of the PUC will readily understand, much of agriculture is inherently seasonal with correspondingly varying energy demands during the course of each year that also can be affected radically by weather from one year to the next. The proposal before the PUC would certainly discourage agricultural investment in AEPS projects as agriculture cannot economically afford the risk that a future years weather pattern can determine whether they are selling to the grid. The PUC should not adopt this proposal that would discourage agricultural investments in AEPS projects.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth's commitment to improving the Chesapeake Bay can only be accomplished with technologies such as anaerobic digesters. The PUC should not adopt a policy that discourages deployment of this expensive technology. If it were to do so, the PUC would contradict the state's efforts for clean water and undermine compliance with onerous federal mandates.

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I am hopeful that the commission will agree that a proposal that would certainly diminish clean air and clean water in the future cannot be construed as consistent with the purpose of the AEPS law.

Please share this letter with the commissioners and enter it as part of the record.

Sincerely,



John A. Maher, Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture and
Rural Affairs

JAM/meg

cc: Robert Godshall, Chairman
House Committee on Consumer Affairs

Ron Miller, Chairman
House Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy

George Greig, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

June Perry, Legislative Director
Public Utility Commission

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