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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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- JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
- WILD RESOURCE CONSERVATION BOARD
- RULES COMMITTEE

April 9, 2012

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Attention: Secretary

Re: Docket Number M-2012-2289411

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider my comments as they relate to the Phase 2 evaluation of Energy Efficiency & Conservation programs as mandated by Act 129 of 2008.

As the author of the original House Bill 2200, which led to Act 129, I would urge the greatest restraint in tampering with the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards as currently outlined:

"Tier I alternative energy source." Energy derived from:

- (1) Solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy.
- (2) Wind power.
- (3) Low-impact hydropower.
- (4) Geothermal energy.
- (5) Biologically derived methane gas.
- (6) Fuel cells.
- (7) Biomass energy.
- (8) Coal mine methane.

"Tier II alternative energy source." Energy derived from:

- (1) Waste coal.
- (2) Distributed generation systems.
- (3) Demand-side management.
- (4) Large-scale hydropower.
- (5) Municipal solid waste.
- (6) Generation of electricity utilizing by-products of the pulping process and wood manufacturing process, including bark, wood chips, sawdust and lignin in spent pulping liquors.
- (7) Integrated combined coal gasification technology.

By and large, these classifications have worked. Clean energy efficiency is now being produced in Pennsylvania through Act 129 at the rate of 2,073 GWhs per year. Act 129 is creating jobs and clean-energy industries that hold great promise for the future with careful tweaking and shepherding by the Legislature and regulators.

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SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Yet, as a long-time chair of the Pa. House of Representatives' Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, I have seen repeated legislative attempts to tamper with the creation and assignment of Tier 1 and Tier 2 energy credits. We have seen proposals to include natural gas and landfill gas as Tier 1 fuels. These attempts, and probably more forthcoming, are not in line with the original goals of Act 129 and basically are corporate welfare agendas to promote the fuel or flavor of the day or decade.

I urge that a cold eye be cast on any attempts to revamp the tiers under the opinion that they would dilute the original goals of Act 129 to promote energy efficiency and conservation and would reduce electricity production from clean, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, low-impact hydropower and geothermal.

I am not opposed to bolstering incremental consumption and peak demand reductions. Indeed, with careful adjustments, many of the strides made under Act 129 can be buttressed to ensure Pennsylvania's leadership role in clean and renewable energies. The solar industry is a prime example as it seeks modest adjustments outlined in House Bill 1580. A Tier 2 fuel – waste coal – would benefit with protections from predatory federal rulings that fall short on comprehension of the issues at stake in the Commonwealth.

In short, I recommend both care and courage – care not to forsake the conservation goals endemic in Act 129 by subjecting Tier 1 and Tier 2 energy sources to constant, politically leveraged changes; and the courage to build and succor the clean, renewable ideals outlined in the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Camille "Bud" George
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Democratic chair, House Environmental
Resources & Energy Committee

CG/mjm

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PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU



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