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Senate of Pennsylvania

SENATOR
JUDY WARD
30TH DISTRICT

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senatorjudyward.com

March 10, 2026

Stephen DeFrank, Chair
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Commissioner DeFrank,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding the PPL rate case R-2025-3057164 and related policies in Pennsylvania that have the potential to impact all citizens, but which will have a notable impact on Pennsylvania Farmers. We all know that energy is at the top of the list of concerns lately. Whether it be large load customers, the predicted shortfall of generating capacity or the rising price of electricity, we are facing serious energy challenges.

I am particularly concerned about net metering and customer-generation policies that impact anaerobic digesters, that are used by several dairy farms in my district to allow them to enjoy environmental benefits and simultaneously produce excess energy. Digesters reduce what was once considered mere animal waste, that could at best be spread onto fields, into high quality fertilizer that can enhance crop performance, provide bedding for herds, and produce methane gas which is turned into electricity that is used by the farm, with the excess being sold to the local utility. It is this last part – the sale of excess generation to the utility – that causes my concern, because without it, my understanding is that the digesters become a financially losing proposition, and that it is only with the revenue produced by selling excess generation, that the equation breaks even.

Dairy farms have a long history in Pennsylvania, and they continue to produce quality products in the face of many challenges. The Commonwealth has recognized the role that digesters can

play in making dairy farming more environmentally friendly and has promoted and supported the deployment of digesters through grants and other programs. In short, digesters are needed in Pennsylvania as long as Pennsylvania needs dairy farms. I encourage the Commission to consider the potential impact on the use of digesters in agriculture in any future decision or rate case regarding net metering and consumer generation policies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Ward". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Senator Judy Ward
30th Senatorial District