

BEN R. WAXMAN, MEMBER  
182ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

226 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 202182  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2182  
(717) 783-4072  
FAX: (717) 787-5066

1500 WALNUT STREET, SUITE# 1050  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19102  
(215) 246-1501  
TOLL-FREE: (833) 321-8070

REPWAXMAN@PAHOUSE.NET



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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STATE GOVERNMENT

**July 8, 2026** L-2023-3044115

Mr. Steve DeFrank  
Chairman Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. DeFrank:

As Pennsylvania legislators we are very concerned about how electricity in our Commonwealth is generated, distributed, and therefore priced. The current system falls short in terms of affordability and reliability. It prioritizes transmitting electricity from dirty fossil fuel plants over long distances. As the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) finalizes new rules for Distributed Energy Resource Aggregations (DERAs), it has the opportunity - and obligation - to improve our energy system.

The Pennsylvania PUC has been tasked by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to write rules regulating how distributed energy resources (DERs)—like smart thermostats, solar panels, batteries, and electric vehicles—are aggregated to participate in wholesale electricity markets.

DERAs can provide a much-needed source of new energy because they enable resources, that individually are too small to participate in supply markets, to be bundled to meet the required size threshold. As energy demand skyrockets, utility bills rise, storms increase in frequency and intensity, and average temperatures climb, it is essential that the PUC enable DERAs to quickly add affordable, reliable, and clean energy to the grid.

DERA rules have the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of all Pennsylvanians, whether they live in urban, rural or suburban communities, and whether or not they actively participate in DERAs.

- DERAs can support the creation of good local jobs necessary to install and maintain DER technologies.
- The rules can create more opportunities for ratepayers to be paid for the energy they produce.
- DERAs can provide critical backup power during outages, reducing the impact of storms and improving resilience for vulnerable residents.
- DER power generated and used within local communities can defer expensive grid upgrades and keep prices down.
- Everyone can breathe easier when more electricity comes from renewable, cleaner DERs.

The PUC's draft DERA rules are a good start, but they are not enough. We urge the PUC to adopt final DERA rules aligned with the following principles:

- **Affordability** so that the cost savings of DERAs benefit ratepayers and local communities.
- **Fair access** so that all ratepayers can participate, including low-income households, renters, and those living in environmental justice communities.
- **Transparency** about all aspects of DERA creation and operation, including open access to census tract level data about where DERs have been utilized. This will help policymakers and the public understand who benefits and ensure accountability.
- **Clear, enforceable ratepayer protections** including transparent contracts, no surprise fees, and strong oversight of aggregators.
- **Streamlined processes** for deployment of DERs, thus adding clean, renewable energy to the grid as quickly as possible

The PUC has the opportunity to reform Pennsylvania's energy system in ways that benefit all ratepayers and residents. We urge the PUC to adopt final rules that prioritize affordability, equity, clean energy, transparency, and rapid deployment so that DERAs can deliver real benefits to the people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Respectfully,

Representative Elizabeth Fiedler, 184<sup>th</sup> House District, Chair, House Energy Committee  
Senator Amanda Cappelletti, 17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Senator Carolyn Comitta, 19<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Representative Mary Jo Daley, 148<sup>th</sup> House District  
Senator Art Haywood, 4<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Representative Chris Rabb, 200<sup>th</sup> House District  
Senator Nikil Saval, 1<sup>st</sup> Senatorial District  
Senator Sharif Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District  
Representative Ben Waxman, 182<sup>nd</sup> House District