

Rep. Carolyn Comitta

PECO Testimony – Incorporating more solar power into DSP

June 9, 2020

Good morning. My name is Carolyn Comitta and I am the state representative of the 156<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. I represent the people of the Borough of West Chester, East and West Goshen, Birmingham, Thornbury and Westtown Township.

One of my top priorities in the state legislature is preserving our environment through utilizing clean, sustainable energy. The climate crisis looms large behind our immediate crisis of COVID-19. I've co-sponsored and drafted numerous bills and resolutions that sought to increase awareness and encourage the use of renewable energy throughout our commonwealth. One particularly important bill I've signed onto is House Bill 1425. This proposes that Pennsylvania transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050.

For this to be possible, we must start now. This is a process that needs to be taken one step at a time, but PECO's default service program (DSP), which includes just the bare minimum of solar power required of electricity providers, does not contribute to this mission. Not only that, but this would be the standard until 2025. This would fail to align with our state's goal of creating a greener Pennsylvania. A cleaner mix of energy sources in the DSP will not only help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, but also make available more local green jobs.

Last year, Governor Wolf deemed climate change as the top environmental threat facing the world and set a statewide goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent over the next 30 years. Chester County followed suit by developing our own climate action plan last April. Some of the county's brightest minds from municipal leaders to area college students completed extensive research and gathered community input to craft a plan that outlines how we can reduce our emissions and manage our environmental impacts.

The people of my district and our county have demonstrated that they want to preserve the vitality and prosperity of our environment and are willing to embrace forms of clean, renewable energy. In fact, we already host more than 840 clean energy installations county-wide, from local businesses, universities, schools, homes and farms, to nonprofit organizations. Integrating more forms of sustainable energy into our community would go beyond improving and protecting our environment. This would also benefit service providers, consumers and hardworking Pennsylvanians right here in Chester County and throughout the commonwealth.

Currently, over 5-thousand county residents work in clean and renewable energy jobs, while more than 3-thousand five hundred work in the energy efficiency sector. To increase the

demand of renewable energy by incorporating more solar power into our area's default service provider, these numbers would undoubtedly go up by creating countless number of good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced.

Again, one of my top priorities in the state legislature has always been to preserve our environment. Now more than ever, we need to work to ensure a safe, clean and healthy future for all our generations. I ask that you prioritize clean and renewable energy, such as solar to be included in PECO's Default Service Program (DSP) for consumers. The people of the 156th Legislative District and Chester County are ready to take this step and create a cleaner, greener tomorrow.

Thank you.