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August 19, 2011

The Honorable David Reed  
Chairman, Republican Policy Committee  
House of Representatives  
128 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: 8/22/11 Hearing on Reviewing the Impact of State Mandated Energy Programs

Dear Representative Reed:

On behalf of its membership comprising thousands of businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors, the PA Chamber of Business and Industry wishes to express its support of your hearing exploring the impact of state mandated energy programs on residential and business customers.

We support all forms of energy generation as our energy needs continue to grow. We represent companies engaged in all forms of energy production, including alternative energy. However, even many of those companies engaged in alternative energy production oppose energy mandates. The PA Chamber opposes energy mandates because it creates winners and losers in the marketplace. Government imposed energy mandates reserve a portion of the market for certain politically-favored technologies, regardless of price, creating a very powerful disincentive for investment in any other resource that does not qualify under the mandate. In a time that our state and nation are trying to recover from the worst recession in decades, government should be looking for ways to decrease costs on consumers, not adding on to their cost of doing business.

The PA Chamber supports balanced policies that allow producers and suppliers from all energy sectors located within our state to compete and that enable business to secure a reliable supply of energy produced and delivered on a competitively prices basis. This can be best accomplished several ways, including but not limited to supporting energy efficiency, and allowing the marketplace to select the most appropriate energy technologies and avoiding governmental actions that select, force, or subsidize particular technologies.

The PA Chamber would be happy to work with you and the Committee to review specific proposals aimed at achieving consumer savings.

Sincerely,

Gene Barr  
Vice President, Government & Public Affairs