



pennsylvania environmental council

June 15, 2009

To: Members of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

Cc: Representative Greg Vitali; Representative Chris Ross

Secretary John Hanger, Department of Environmental Protection

Acting Secretary John Quigley, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Re: Support for House Bill 80; Amendment A01746

Central
Regional Office
130 Locust Street
Suite 200
Harrisburg, PA 17101
phone: 717-230-8044
fax: 717-230-8045

Northwest
Regional Office
301 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335
phone: 814-332-2946
fax: 814-724-5446

Northeast
Regional Office
175 Main Street
Luzerne, PA 18709
phone: 570-718-6507
fax: 570-718-6508

Southeast
Regional Office
123 Chestnut Street
Suite 401
Philadelphia, PA 19106
phone: 215-592-7020
fax: 215-592-7026

Southwest
Regional Office
22 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
phone: 412-481-9400
fax: 412-481-9401

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), I wish to express our ***strong support for House Bill 80*** (P.N. 1000) ***and Amendment A01746, submitted by Representative Ross***. House Bill 80 will be considered by the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee tomorrow; we urge that you approve this forward-looking legislation as amended by A01746.

In 2007 PEC released its *Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania* – developed through an inclusive stakeholder process – which presents a wide range of policy recommendations to help address greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Pennsylvania alone accounts for approximately one percent (1%) of *worldwide* greenhouse gas emissions. The two objectives set forth in House Bill 80, expanding in-state generation and use of renewable energy sources and establishing a framework for carbon capture and sequestration, are immediate recommendations contained in our Climate Change Roadmap.

By expanding Tier I of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards beyond the year 2021, House Bill 80 is the logical next step in the growing line of landmark legislation passed in Pennsylvania – from the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to last year's Alternative Energy Investment Act – to generate market demand for renewable energy, which in turn will attract renewable energy companies to the Commonwealth and create new green collar jobs.

In establishing the framework for carbon capture and sequestration in Pennsylvania, House Bill 80 effectuates the internationally-recognized work of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in analyzing the potential for, and responsibilities associated with, carbon sequestration in



pennsylvania environmental council

Pennsylvania. As coal and other fossil-based fuels remain a part of Pennsylvania's energy supply for the foreseeable future, it is imperative that we develop ways to reduce their associated greenhouse gas emissions.

PEC believes Amendment A01746 is critically important for the following reasons:

- It ensures funding for long-term monitoring and maintenance of carbon sequestration facilities, paid for by those who utilize the facilities.
- It sets reasonable limits on the availability of alternative energy credits available to facilities that capture carbon before a sequestration facility is operational in Pennsylvania.
- It fundamentally strengthens the permitting framework for carbon storage facilities.

House Bill 80 and Amendment A01746 will dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas footprint, diversify Pennsylvania's energy supply, and create economic opportunities. We again urge the Committee to pass this milestone legislation.

Central
Regional Office
130 Locust Street
Suite 200
Harrisburg, PA 17101
phone: 717-230-8044
fax: 717-230-8045

Sincerely,

Donald S. Welsh
President and CEO

Northwest
Regional Office
301 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335
phone: 814-332-2946
fax: 814-724-5446

Northeast
Regional Office
175 Main Street
Luzerne, PA 18709
phone: 570-718-6507
fax: 570-718-6508

Southeast
Regional Office
123 Chestnut Street
Suite 401
Philadelphia, PA 19106
phone: 215-592-7020
fax: 215-592-7026

Southwest
Regional Office
22 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
phone: 412-481-9400
fax: 412-481-9401