



Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance Statement on PA Senate Threat to Block PUC Appointment

HARRISBURG (April 28, 2021) – In response to Pennsylvania Senate Republicans’ refusal to vote on any nomination to the state Public Utility Commission (PUC) unless Governor Wolf halts progress toward joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance releases the following statement:

The Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA), representing seventy-five member businesses in the energy efficiency trades, strongly opposes recent political maneuvers in the Pennsylvania Senate that could endanger the operations of Pennsylvania’s public utilities.

Members of the Pennsylvania Senate issued a statement last week threatening to delay the confirmation of critical appointments to the state’s Public Utility Commission (PUC) over an entirely unrelated policy matter—the governor’s efforts to enjoin the state in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cap-and-invest program intended to reduce carbon emissions from power plants.

KEEA’s stance is that this is simply an attack on this proposed clean energy and jobs-creating measure—and one that is not only an inappropriate conflation of two separate and unrelated matters, but also a threat to the public safety that the PUC helps protect.

As an independent commission serving all Pennsylvanians, the PUC regulates and ensures the safe delivery of the energy, water, and other utility services Pennsylvanians depend on every day. The Senators’ reckless ultimatum threatens the proper functioning of an already short-staffed Commission. Moreover, the PUC has no role in approving or administering RGGI, so this threat to its operations is illogical.

As a trade association dedicated to promoting the largest and fastest growing sector in Pennsylvania’s energy economy, KEEA firmly supports the Governor’s efforts to enter Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. We see a tremendous opportunity in the investment of auction proceeds into measures that will create jobs in our industry while saving money for energy consumers across the state and reducing carbon and other health-harming pollution.

Firm legal standing and precedents from our neighboring states make clear the authority of our Governor and the Department of Environmental Protection to join this regional carbon trading program.

“This initiative would invest \$300 million into local communities to grow clean energy industries and create local jobs that cannot be outsourced. It’s a no-brainer and a win-win-win for our economy, public health, and the climate,” said Leann Leiter, Director of Policy for the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance.

“The support is loud and clear: businesses, faith and community leaders, health and climate advocates, and the majority of PA residents eagerly voice their support for the infusion of much-needed funds for things like home weatherization programs, energy efficiency, workforce development, and helping communities dealing with job and revenue loss from an already-shifting energy landscape.”

The Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance stands up for Pennsylvanians' right to join RGGI and reap the benefits of this common-sense, market-based solution to address the climate crisis.