



H.B.1580 -- Get The Facts

Over 4,700 Jobs Created and Counting...

The Issue

- Due to the huge explosion of solar PV installations in Pennsylvania over the last two years, there are now over 5,500 solar PV systems in PA, totaling to over 130 MW of solar capacity; this equates to almost 3 times more solar supply than what is currently required in PA; its even more than what is required in 2014.
- This is about a 90 percent drop in price, This unforeseen growth has reduced the price of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) by 90%, which has drastically slowed down new project installations, and has caused hundreds of Pennsylvanian jobs to be lost in just the last few months; it has stripped solar businesses down to the bone if not shut them down completely, and has caused many other solar businesses to relocate out of Pennsylvania.

The Solution: House Bill #1580 w/Amendment

- This bill proposes a small fix to the amount of solar energy credits (SRECs) required to be purchased by utility companies in the years 2012 through 2015 so that the requirement more closely matches the growth of solar demand.
- Net-Zero: This legislation will not increase the overall solar share requirement, but simply moves the requirement forward from the later years, so that the solar energy industry can be sustained and continue to grow now, where it is needed.
- The cost of this fix to the ratepayer is insignificant; only **4 cents per month** for residential customers.
- This bill protects Pennsylvania ratepayers with a cost cap; by setting a fixed Alternative Compliance Payment schedule this bill implements a cost cap mechanism not currently part of the Act #213; this is seen as critical to protect ratepayers.
- Allows for solar thermal technology to qualify for SRECs as well as solar photovoltaic systems; this further reduces costs to ratepayers.
- HB1580 ensures the benefits from solar energy stays in Pennsylvania; by requiring solar energy systems to connect to Pennsylvania's distribution system this bill ensures that Pennsylvania ratepayers directly receive all the benefits of solar energy and they do not pay for new projects built out of state; it also ensures Pennsylvania's electric infrastructure is enhanced by the benefits as oppose to exporting those benefits elsewhere.

Pennsylvania's Solar Energy Industry - The Facts

- **Jobs.** The Pennsylvania solar industry has employed over 4,700 Pennsylvanians and these employees have been hard at work everyday manufacturing, installing and servicing solar products across all regions of Pennsylvania.
- **Investment Into Pennsylvania.** Additionally, the solar industry has attracted hundreds of millions of dollars of investment into Pennsylvania and the U.S. was a \$2 billion exporter of solar equipment, even to China - Pennsylvania was a big part of this success.
- **Economic Development.** Over the last two years, Pennsylvania's solar industry has grown by 1246%, making it one of Pennsylvania's fast growing industries and the fourth largest solar economy in the U.S. This has generated millions of dollars in sales tax revenue alone.
- **Lower Energy Bills for Families.** Solar energy helps lower the utility bills for Pennsylvanian families and businesses every month for the next 30 years, and is especially beneficial during peak times when power is most costly to ratepayers.
- **Reduced Costs.** Since January 2010 the price of solar has dropped 30% make the AEPS less costly than originally anticipated.
- **Pennsylvanian Leadership.** Pennsylvania has developed into the fourth largest solar economy in the U.S., and last year the U.S. ranked fourth in the world for new solar installations and is expected to become the world leader by 2015; Pennsylvania is well positioned to benefit from this growth if the solar industry remains strong.