
WUC

Water Utility Council of the
PA-Section, American Water
Works Association (PA-AWWA)



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
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Multi-Industry Coalition: Tax Code Bill Would Significantly Increase Energy Taxes, Hurt Pennsylvania's Competitiveness

Raising concerns regarding the impact a proposed revenue package would have on the Commonwealth's overall economy and competitive edge, a coalition of business leaders representing a wide variety of industry sectors across the Commonwealth today held a media call to urge the state House to oppose H.B. 542 – the Tax Code bill. The legislation – which narrowly passed the Senate in recent weeks – would increase taxes on Pennsylvania job creators and residents by \$600 million annually. The proposal includes a number of tax increases that will significantly raise energy costs for both residential and commercial users – including a new gross receipts tax on natural gas users, an increase to the gross receipts tax on electric users and a severance tax on natural gas.

“Of Pennsylvania’s competitive business advantages, affordable, accessible energy – particularly natural gas – perhaps stands out the

most,” said Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry President and CEO Gene Barr. “This revenue package would attack that advantage by imposing additional punitive taxes on the natural gas and electricity use – increasing energy costs for businesses throughout the Commonwealth. These costs – along with the proposed tax increase on phone use – would reduce Pennsylvania businesses’ ability to compete in the global economy and re-invest in the state, and will result in higher prices to consumers. If we truly want our economy to flourish, state officials need to enact pro-growth policies that will encourage job creation and entice companies to come to Pennsylvania and stay here – which will in turn generate more revenue for the state.”

“In the Senate’s revenue package, over \$400 million would come from additional taxes on utilities,” said Energy Association of Pennsylvania President Terry Fitzpatrick. “Using utilities as collection agents for state government isn’t good policy. The Senate plan will put an especially heavy and unfair burden on large energy users.”

“Our members provide 35,000 manufacturing and support jobs throughout the Commonwealth,” said Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania Treasurer Mark Chasse. “Additionally, IECPA members invest an estimated \$312.5 million each year into their Pennsylvania facilities – supporting

additional jobs and adding to the Commonwealth's tax base. However, the proposed taxes in H.B. 542 put this growth and investment at risk. If signed into law, this revenue package would cost IECPA members up to \$4.1 million annually – significantly impacting their ability to compete. These targeted energy tax hikes would increase the cost of doing business in Pennsylvania and further slow the state's stagnant economy."

"The Senate's action places Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage for new investments for natural gas development and makes manufacturers and employers less competitive," said Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania Executive Director Stephanie Catarino-Wissman. "Rather than offering proposals that could harm consumers and diminish Pennsylvania's competitiveness, our elected officials should look at ways to promote public policies that expand Pennsylvania's opportunity to thrive and position our families to succeed. Bottom line, does Pennsylvania want investment here or elsewhere? The choice should be clear."

In addition to the PA Chamber, EAP, IECPA and API; the call participants included: Marcellus Shale Coalition President Dave Spigelmyer; Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association President Dan Weaver; and Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association President Dave Taylor.

Source: PA Chamber Press Release, 8/8/2017

DEP Chronicles Story of Susquehanna River Stresses and Cites Successes on New Interactive Multimedia Website

Fans of the Susquehanna River can learn about adverse human impacts on the East Coast's longest river and its tributaries and follow the progress of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) efforts to tackle them on a new interactive, multimedia website called the [Susquehanna River Story](#).

"Working with many partners, we're developing and implementing programs that are paying off in addressing the wide range of challenges the Susquehanna faces," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "These are informed by innovative pollution assessment methods and stores of data we've developed that have made us a national leader in large-river monitoring."

DEP has played an instrumental role in improving the health of the Susquehanna River Basin. For example, as a direct result of DEP acid mine drainage cleanup projects, the West Branch Susquehanna River—which was biologically dead about 15 years ago—now has aquatic life from near Clearfield to Lock Haven, including the return of healthy populations of native mussels from Sunbury to Williamsport.

The Susquehanna River Story website uses GIS maps, videos, charts, and photos to show where mining, agriculture, stormwater, and dams have impaired macroinvertebrate, fish, and plant life, as well as DEP's progress in addressing these impairments. DEP research on smallmouth bass is also shared.

Site visitors can see which streams have been impaired by farming activities as well as samples of agricultural best management practices that have been implemented to repair impacts and which streams have been impaired by acid mine drainage and locations of successful treatment projects.

DEP has developed innovative continuous in-stream monitoring protocols to analyze water quality. Water samplers and computerized monitoring devices are left in the river for months to enable DEP to continually detect chemicals and other pollutants that would be difficult to discover with conventional testing methods.

These devices have enabled DEP to collect a great volume of data, including probably more data than any other state environmental agency on contaminants of emerging concern, such as certain hormones, pharmaceuticals, and pesticides.

Although initiatives to restore water quality and aquatic life in the Susquehanna have had positive results, the river continues to face many challenges

from human activity. DEP will chronicle new developments as it works toward a fully healthy Susquehanna River.

Interactive river story websites are also planned for the Delaware, Ohio, Great Lakes, and Potomac River Basins in Pennsylvania.

Source: DEP Press Release, 8/8/2017

PUC Hosts Discussion on Veteran Outreach & Hiring by Utilities; Collaborates with Agencies, Utilities and National Association

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) recently hosted a collaborative with several stakeholders regarding job outreach, training and hiring opportunities for military veterans. Representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) joined Commissioner David W. Sweet, Chairman Gladys M. Brown and PUC staff in a conversation with representatives from the state's major electric, natural gas, water and telecommunications utilities to discuss existing veteran hiring programs and explore possible ways to better coordinate government and utility outreach. This ongoing initiative is being coordinated in conjunction with a national discussion about how utilities, utility regulators and other stakeholders can advance these efforts.

"Our veterans are talented and dedicated individuals who have already demonstrated an ability to tackle the most challenging tasks," Commissioner Sweet said. "It is important that we coordinate public and private efforts to reach these talented men and women - highlighting best practices and lessons learned in both the utility and government sectors in order to create more opportunities for veterans and ensure a skilled workforce to meet the utility needs of the future."

Future goals for the Pennsylvania collaborative include strengthening the connections between utility human resources departments, who are

searching for strong candidates, and L&I, which works with veterans and others seeking employment; clarifying the potential utility/private sector applications for military training, and better "translating" those service-related skills into civilian job descriptions; further promoting apprenticeship and job training programs; increasing the exchange of information about job openings and combining recruiting and promotion of Pennsylvania as a good location for utility career opportunities.

"Helping veterans find employment is one of the most important and rewarding things we do at the Department of Labor & Industry," said L&I Deputy Secretary for Workforce Development Eileen Cipriani. "We're proud to offer job seeker and other veteran services at the [59 PA CareerLink](#) locations statewide. In addition, our [Apprentice and Training Office](#) helps veterans access training programs that allow them to earn while they learn."

The department's Office of Apprenticeship and Training, created in 2016, works to expand registered apprenticeships and the participation of non-traditional businesses and under-represented participants in registered apprenticeships. Since its inception last year, the Office of Apprenticeship and Training has added 1,714 new apprentices and 66 new registered apprenticeship occupations statewide.

The recent Pennsylvania meeting is part of an ongoing nationwide effort regarding veteran outreach in the utility sector, which was launched by PUC Commissioner Robert F. Powelson as one of the key initiatives for his presidency of the [National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners](#) (NARUC). Commissioner Sweet is a member of the NARUC Presidential Task Force on Veterans' Workforce and is also leading the PUC's efforts to encourage enhanced veterans outreach and hiring by utilities across Pennsylvania.

Military workforce development efforts were a key topic at the recent [NARUC Summer Policy Summit](#), held in late July, as regulators and utility leadership from across the country discussed opportunities, challenges and benefits related to recruiting and retaining veterans - with many stakeholders noting the resemblances between the team-building and mission-focused training that

service members receive, and the similar focus in the utility sector on maintaining critical services.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

For recent news releases and video of select Commission proceedings or more information about the PUC, visit our [website](#). Follow the PUC on Twitter - @PA_PUC for all things utility. "Like" Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on Facebook for easy access to information on utility issues.

Source: PUC Press Release, 8/10/2017

PUC Releases Annual Electric Service Reliability Report

On August 9, 2017, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) released its annual [Electric Service Reliability Report](#), detailing the performance of the state's electric distribution companies (EDCs) during 2016. The PUC's annual reliability report measures performance based on various benchmarks and standards for the state's 11 EDCs, including Citizens' Electric, Duquesne Light, Metropolitan Edison, PECO, Pennsylvania Electric, Pennsylvania Power, Pike County Light & Power, PPL Electric Utilities, UGI Utilities, Wellsboro Electric and West Penn Power.

Performance measurements documented in the report include the frequency and duration of outages; the frequency of momentary and sustained outages; and utility-specific information and analysis of outages causes; and major events that impacted power customers during 2016. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities;

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Source: PUC Press Release, 8/9/2017

Brion Johnson Named Executive Director of PA Infrastructure Investment Authority

The PA Infrastructure Investment Authority approved the appointment of Brion Johnson as the agency's Executive Director at its July 19 meeting.

Johnson brings more than 29 years of agency experience to the position ranging from outreach, policy and program management.

He is only the second Executive Director the agency has had since its formation in 1988. Johnson succeeds Dr. Paul Marchetti who retired on June 30.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority <http://www.pennvest.pa.gov/> website.

Source: PA Environmental Synopsis, 8/14/2017

DEP Announces Retirement of Kelly (Heffner) Means As Executive Deputy Secretary

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell Wednesday announced the retirement of Kelly Heffner-Means who served as Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs.

Heffner had a 25 year career with DEP, beginning in the Northeast Regional Office as a Water Pollution Biologist, and later in Central Office where she provided technical expertise to central and regional office staff and served as an expert on wetlands matters.

She then served as Chief of the Permitting Section in the Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Stormwater Management where she supervised professional staff who were responsible for the development of program guidance, policies, regulations, that supported the permitting processes and as DEP's American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Coordinator, Executive Policy Specialist in the DEP Policy Office where she developed policy, regulations and guidance.

Most recently, and prior to being appointed Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs, Kelly held the positions of Special Deputy Secretary, Office of Water Resources Planning, Deputy Secretary, Office of Water Management, Acting Deputy Secretary for Field Operations and as Policy Director for DEP.

[Ramez Ziadeh, P.E.](#) is now serving as Acting DEP Executive Deputy for Programs.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 8/14/2017

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