

**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA SENATE
CONSUMER PROTECTION & PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE**

**TESTIMONY OF EDWARD G. RENDELL
45TH GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Chairman Tomlinson, Chairman Boscola and Members of the Committee, good morning. I am pleased to appear before you today to provide my thoughts on the Commonwealth's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004 ("AEPS") and the proposed legislation (SB 510) that is aimed at adding nuclear power to AEPS and currently pending before the General Assembly.

As many of you may know, AEPS was passed into law at the end of 2004, the second year of my first term as Governor. I was a leading proponent of AEPS inasmuch as it was designed to achieve two important policy goals of my Administration: (1) establish Pennsylvania as a leader in alternative energy sources and therefore promote economic development and job creation in the Commonwealth, and (2) help Pennsylvania lead the way in environmental stewardship by reducing the Commonwealth's reliance on fossil fuels and thus reducing Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions.

I am pleased to be able to report that the goals of the AEPS program have been and continue to be achieved. With respect to economic development, by the time I left office, a study done by the Pew Center on the States found that Pennsylvania ranked third nationally in the creation of clean energy jobs. As of today, AEPS has resulted in creating and sustaining thousands of jobs and business ventures associated with all aspects of renewable and alternative energy generation. The *Clean Jobs Pennsylvania 2017* report cites that Pennsylvania has a renewable energy workforce of more than

10,062 positions. In addition, the companies supporting these jobs are typically small businesses of 25 or fewer employees.

In reporting year 2017, approximately 52 megawatts (MW) of solar-electric generating capacity was installed in Pennsylvania, which brought the in-state total capacity to 285 MW. These installations, across Pennsylvania, at private residences, businesses and institutions, helped sustain a Pennsylvania workforce of just over 3,800 people who are engaged in all aspects of the solar industry, including manufacturing, sales, distribution and the installation of solar power components and systems and related support services. Job growth in this sector increased 26 percent from 2016.

Pennsylvania also supports a significant number of wind energy jobs. In 2016, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) reported the total number of direct and indirect jobs supporting the wind industry in Pennsylvania was approximately 1,656. This included jobs at 27 in-state manufacturing facilities. Further, according to AWEA, more than 1,300 MW of wind power at 24 wind farms had been installed in Pennsylvania as of the end of 2016, which brought over \$2.8 billion in capital investment into the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania has significant hydropower generating capacity as well. During my Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approved the expansion of Lancaster County's Holtwood Hydroelectric Plant, increasing its capacity to generate clean energy from 109 MW to over 234 MW. Further, according to the National Hydropower Association, approximately 325 Pennsylvania businesses are part of the hydropower supply chain. The largest of these businesses is Voith Hydro whose York

County manufacturing facility employed more than 550 people at the end of the 2017 reporting year.

Nevertheless, while Pennsylvania is to be commended for all that we have achieved through AEPS in the promotion of carbon-free energy for the Commonwealth, it is simply not enough – much remains to be done. I therefore encourage the General Assembly to be more aggressive in promoting further development of renewables – solar, wind and hydro – in SB 510 or other legislation.

Alarming, what we have accomplished through AEPS date is now at great risk of effectively being wiped out if the state’s nuclear power plants begin to shut down. As many of you are likely aware, Pennsylvania’s nuclear power plants generate 93% of our state’s carbon-free energy and 13 times more electricity than wind, solar and hydropower combined. In fact, losing the Beaver Valley and Three Mile Island plants alone will negate five times the emission benefits of all the solar and wind power projects installed in Pennsylvania to date.

In a December 31, 2018 opinion piece, the Bloomberg Editorial Board made the following observations:

- ▶ “[T]he world is on course to reach the limit of tolerable warming in a scant 21 years.”
- ▶ “[N]uclear power has a crucial role in climate protection.”
- ▶ “Nuclear accounts for almost 60 percent of emissions-free power in the [United States].”
- ▶ “[W]hen [nuclear] plants shut down, utilities mostly turn to fossil fuels to fill the void.”
- ▶ “[R]evising energy portfolio standards to stop utilities switching from nuclear to fossil fuels . . . must be on the table as the world wakes up to the role nuclear power must play in avoiding a climate catastrophe.”

With respect to Pennsylvania, the Bloomberg editorial is spot on. The Nuclear Energy Caucus recently reported, “[c]losing Pennsylvania’s nuclear plants will increase carbon dioxide emissions by more than 37 million metric tons, along with increased emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and small particulates harmful to air quality.” Davitt Woodwell, President of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, put it this way:

“[T]he loss of today’s nuclear fleet would be a terrible blow to the progress already made in reducing Pennsylvania’s contribution to climate change and would hamstring all of our combined efforts.”

Many of us often use the old adage, “hindsight is 20/20.” This is a saying that means it is easy to know the right thing to do after something has happened, but it is hard to predict the future. Why do I bring this up? I do so because if I knew in 2004 what I know now about global warming and climate change, I would have certainly included nuclear power as a qualifying energy resource under AEPS.

As in the case of solar, wind and hydropower, nuclear clearly provides an important environmental benefit to the citizens of our Commonwealth: carbon-free energy that does not create greenhouse gas emissions and does not exacerbate the troubling changes to our climate that are clearly occurring. Hence, nuclear power should be rewarded in a similar fashion. It is the logical and right thing to do.

Accordingly, on behalf of our children, our grandchildren and all of Pennsylvania’s citizens – today and in the future – I urge you to support SB 510.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to appear before you today.