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SMC Business Councils Pennsylvania Energy Policy

PROBLEM:

Abundant, safe, reliable and competitively priced energy production and delivery are critically important components of a healthy economy for small businesses. The failure to commit to a long-term energy policy in view of Pennsylvania's energy resources will leave our state and its small businesses at the mercy of global politics, commodity markets and short-term extremes in availability and cost of energy. Pennsylvania's energy infrastructure and regulatory climate must support the Commonwealth's economic development efforts as well as retaining existing employers. Energy costs can be a significant portion of any business operation and in certain energy-intensive industries, these costs account for more than 50 percent of total operating costs.

Pennsylvania has long been an energy exporter due to our historic strengths in traditional sources such as coal, oil, hydroelectric, nuclear and natural gas. Traditional sources and renewable / alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, biofuels and biomass can form a diverse portfolio of energy sources. All these forms of energy are key products of our Commonwealth, and the production of competitively priced energy helps fuel our economy while generating significant employment in the Commonwealth.

SOLUTION:

The SMC Business Councils supports balanced policies that allow producers and suppliers from all energy sectors located in our Commonwealth to compete and that enable business to secure a reliable supply of energy produced and delivered on a competitively priced basis. This can be best accomplished by the following:

- Ensuring that energy policies and actual practices are competitive with other states and no more restrictive than federal law.
- Encouraging greater use of domestic natural resources while using appropriate, reasonable, and currently achievable environmental controls based on sound and verifiable science.
- Supporting cost-effective energy efficiency and storage.
- Avoiding price controls on any energy sources.
- Allowing the marketplace to select the most appropriate energy sources and avoiding governmental actions that select or force the choices of particular energy sources.
- Supporting programs that encourage research into new technology for energy development of power generation and fuels.
- Creating state policies that can leverage federal programs aimed at encouraging growth and energy technology adoption by small business.
- Reducing regulatory and other governmental hurdles to the utilization of all energy sources and to the implementation of energy infrastructure while ensuring appropriate environmental protection.
- Ensuring new or revised regulations adhere to Act 76 of 2012 - Regulatory Flexibility for Small Businesses.
- Ensuring that our energy supply and delivery systems have the appropriate physical and cyber security standards and enforcement mechanisms.