

Lancaster County Agriculture Council

July 28, 2014

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North St., P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Docket L-2014-2404361
Proposed Net Metering Changes

Dear Commissioners:

As you may be aware the agriculture industry in Lancaster County is an important part of the economy of the region with its annual output of more than \$1 billion in farm receipts and nearly \$6 billion additional financial impact through its supply and distribution chains.

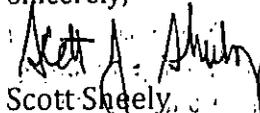
Agriculture in our area is dominated by animal agriculture...dairy, poultry, and swine...which provide farmers with abundant manure that they have used to generate alternative energy through anaerobic digesters, composting, and other methods.

Digesters and alternative energy systems provide environmentally friendly ways to dispose of manure. In addition, selling electricity beyond the farmers' needs back to the power grid is a vital income stream necessary to fund the repayment of their investment in their manure to energy system. This combination of environmental and financial benefits is a win-win solution for all.

We are concerned that the proposed changes in net metering will have a stifling effect on current and future alternative energy projects. Will future projects not be allowed as a utility nears and exceeds its 18% requirement for alternative energy? There are issues to be worked out with regard to the maximum two mile rule. With review required of generators larger than 500 Kw, would that lead to disapproval from the beginning of the application? These are flaws that need to be addressed to encourage alternative energy from the agriculture sector rather than limiting it.

We encourage the PA PUC to continue to get input on these issues and to actively consult stakeholders as the conversation continues. We would be happy to provide additional comment as needed.

Sincerely,


Scott Sheely,
Executive Director

313 W. Liberty St., Suite 113, Lancaster, PA 17603
717-735-0333

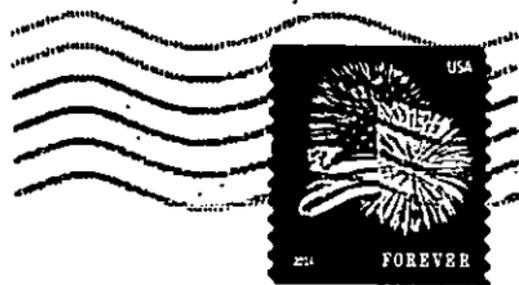
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