



Pennsylvania State Grange

20 Erford Road, Suite 216
Lemoyne, Pennsylvania 17043
www.pagrang.org
email: betsy@pagrange.org
P 717-737-8855 or 800-552-3865
F 717-737-8858 c-484-459-1957

May 21, 2015

Public Utility Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: L-2014-2404361

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the 8000 members of the Pennsylvania State Grange, I write concerning proposed rule changes for net metering as it relates to anaerobic digesters on farms. We are very concerned about how proposed changes may impact family farmers who may be considering anaerobic digester installations in the future.

Farmers install these digesters as a best management practice for manure generated on their farms. They should be encouraged in every possible way to install manure digesters as an alternative to spreading excess manure on the land, which results in over-fertilization and run-off of nutrients into streams. In addition to providing a substantial environmental benefit, these digesters often produce more electricity than can be used on the farm. Unlike wind and solar power generation, digesters produce a reliable, steady stream of electricity, making their impact on the power grid easily predictable.

Anaerobic digesters are very expensive to build, and often the long-term revenue stream earned from selling electricity back to the power grid is the extra incentive needed for farmers to undertake the project. Our fear is that the proposed change in net metering rules could make digesters cost prohibitive to install, negatively impacting both the economic feasibility for many family farmers and the ongoing effort to reduce pollution in the Commonwealth's streams.

We urge the Public Utility Commission to exempt anaerobic digesters from any negative changes to net metering rules. We appreciate your consideration of the concerns of Pennsylvania State Grange members.

Sincerely,

Betsy E. Huber
Government Relations Director

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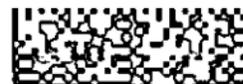
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