



Remarks by Chad Forcey

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The Pennsylvania Senate Majority Policy Committee

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Good morning. My name is Chad Forcey, and I am the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Conservative Energy Forum. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational foundation committed to clean and renewable energy and energy diversity.

PennCEF supports free enterprise and free markets, getting government off the backs of private landowners and farmers, and new innovative approaches to clean and renewable energy development on the ground. That's a message that we spread throughout Pennsylvania, and its promise brings conservatives to the table to take ownership of technologies that have historically been ceded to the other side of the aisle. We know, as lifelong Republicans who have influenced public policy in Harrisburg for decades, that jobs, economic development and national security depend on energy diversity. So, we are staking our claim.

Jobs in PA's clean and renewable energy portfolio now stand at more than 90,000. This number is growing at a rate of more than 6% per year. New technologies include sources like wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, hydro and electric vehicles that reduce our reliance on imported energy while growing the size and scope of our renewable sector.

We do not exclude natural gas, nuclear, and clean coal technologies from this conversation. Our newly developed and legacy fuels provide us with bridges to the future, and opportunities to efficiently reuse waste from our industrial past.

Since our founding in 2018, and with the help of our Leadership Council – including folks like Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley, former U.S. Navy Secretary John Lehman, and former DEP Secretary Jim Seif – we have supported the following:

- Commercial PACE Legislation
  - Passed the General Assembly in 2018, with the leadership of former Sen. Guy Reschenthaler
  - Created new, low-interest loans for clean and renewable projects at the county level
- The Community Solar Act of 2019, SB 705
  - Sponsored by Senator Mario Scavello
  - Dozens of new Republican co-sponsors, whom we have met with
  - The bill will cut red tape and open up significant new markets for solar in Pennsylvania
- 2 Senate Resolutions Honoring Clean Energy Week, Sponsored by Senator Pat Browne
- A newly-proposed offshore wind project in Lake Erie that could revolutionize energy production in Pennsylvania, and create thousands of jobs.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is market-based program with the goal of reducing power generation emissions between the northeastern states. The Governor recently announced his intent to join RGGI. In future months, PennCEF will facilitate critical dialogue between House and Senate leadership, agricultural groups and the business community to create room in the RGGI discussion for business and agricultural input. We believe, as the Senate Republican leaders have stated, that RGGI should support energy diversity in Pennsylvania, keep prices low for ratepayers, uphold "all of the above" on energy, and include input from the House, Senate and Governor. Our outreach efforts will call for a portion of RGGI revenue to be dedicated to actual energy projects, particularly those that are greatly needed on our farms. The Penn State College of Ag Sciences, represented here today, speaks to the important work of renewable energy development on farms throughout Pennsylvania. This program is exhibit A for future RGGI efforts.

PennCEF will also continue its on-going efforts to support farmers who choose to exercise their Right to Farm, and invest in clean and renewable energy on their land, but are prevented from doing so by local government ordinances and, in some cases, utility red tape. Pennsylvania should allow farmers to fully invest in their land with new energy development, as our farmers' time is short: the dairy crisis and trade barriers are pushing many out of production. Clean and renewable energy on farms creates jobs, keeps land in the family, and eliminates utility bills.

Conservatives can and should take pride in a full slate of energy technologies that have made Pennsylvania a global leader in energy. We must include renewables in this discussion. Millennials, suburban voters and other groups crucial to the future of the Republican party want to hear more. Let's take ownership of these new technologies, and bring the job-creators from these industries into our fold.