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Environmental, Labor, Business, Health, Faith Groups Unite behind Clean Energy Program Proposed for Pennsylvania

Diverse coalition supports Commercial PACE legislation introduced by Senators Blake, Reschenthaler

Harrisburg (January 31, 2017) --- Senator John Blake (D-Lackawanna) and Senator Guy Reschenthaler (R-Allegheny) are the latest in a growing group of policymakers across the country to recognize the economic and health benefits of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) for commercial properties. On January 31st, the senators introduced Commercial PACE legislation for Pennsylvania- Senate Bill 234- with strong, bipartisan support. This financing mechanism will enable local governments to work with private lenders on low-cost, long-term funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation projects on commercial or industrial properties.

SB 234 is supported by a diverse coalition of environmental, labor, health, and clean energy business groups as a common sense solution to save Pennsylvania businesses money, create local jobs and improve health and the environment in local communities as a result of cleaner air and greater energy efficiency.

The organizations, including: BlueGreen Alliance; PennFuture; Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); Pennsylvania Solar Energy Industries Association; Solar Unified Network of Western Pennsylvania (SUNWPA); Green Building Alliance; Nature Abounds; Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association; PennEnvironment; Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2); Clean Air Council; American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE); Delaware Valley Green Building Council; Evangelical Environmental Network; Sierra Club; Moms Clean Air Force; PA Interfaith Power & Light; Sustainable Pittsburgh; and Environmental Defense Fund, issued the following statement today in support of SB 234:

“We applaud Senator Blake and Senator Reschenthaler for their legislation to enable Commercial PACE programs in Pennsylvania. Commercial PACE has the potential to provide wide-ranging benefits for Pennsylvania businesses, consumers and local governments. It is exciting that Pennsylvania may join the ranks of states across the country taking advantage of this popular and successful program.

Commercial PACE will enable businesses and property owners to save money on utility bills and increase the value of their properties, without any cost to taxpayers. At the same time, the proposed legislation will create local jobs for skilled laborers, engineers and others by incentivizing business to invest in energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades, installation of renewable power sources such as solar panels, and water conservation measures. As businesses continue to invest in these upgrades financed through Commercial PACE, Pennsylvania communities will benefit from cleaner air and greater energy efficiency.

Commercial PACE represents a common-sense approach to saving money, creating jobs, and building a clean and efficient energy economy.”

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The Clean Power PA Coalition is a group of clean energy, business, faith, and community leaders committed to protecting Pennsylvania’s environment and powering its economy through clean energy. The coalition includes the [Natural Resources Defense Council \(NRDC\)](#), [PennFuture](#), [Clean Air Council](#), [Moms Clean Air Force](#), [Penn Environment](#), [NextGen Climate America](#), [Conservation Voters of PA](#), [Clean Water Action](#), [Voces Verdes](#), [Sierra Club](#), [the Union of Concerned Scientists](#), [Audubon Pennsylvania](#), [Physicians for Social Responsibility-Philadelphia](#), [Climate Parents](#), [Partnership for Policy Integrity](#), [Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light](#), [Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association](#), [Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia](#), [Sustainable Pittsburgh](#) and [Environmental Entrepreneurs \(E2\)](#).

For more information, visit www.cleanpowerpa.org