HOUSE REPUBLICAN

# SERVIBLICANO DE COMMITTE LA CO

COMMITTEE



2024 Q1 REPORT JANUARY-MARCH

JOSHUA D. KAIL, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



# **HOPE**Republican Policy Committee

As we conclude the first quarter of 2024, I am proud to reflect on the unwavering commitment and progress of the Republican Policy Committee in pursuit of a future that embodies Hope, Opportunity, Prosperity, and Excellence in Government for our beloved Commonwealth.

The dedicated members of our caucus have continued to diligently listen to and address the needs of our state. We have engaged with first responders, infrastructure experts, farmers, advanced tech developers, energy generators, and more to foster a collaborative environment where we can remove obstacles and pave the way for opportunities throughout Pennsylvania.

While our Democrat-controlled Legislature pursues misguided policies, we, the House Republicans, have laid the groundwork for a vibrant future. In the face of our continued slow and unproductive legislative session within the Capitol, the Policy Committee has taken the initiative to travel across the state, discussing legislative priorities that inspire HOPE in every Pennsylvanian.

Tope for Pennsylvania families through innovative policy solutions that are people driven and future focused.

pportunity for family-sustaining jobs. We must promote Pennsylvania as open for business by removing burdensome taxation, easing the regulatory climate, and addressing overbearing bureaucracy.

Prosperity for working families. We must harness the ample resources offered right here in Pennsylvania, from a highly skilled workforce and abundant energy portfolio to our manufacturing might and agriculture prowess, we must foster the opportunities found here so we can continue to reduce the burdens on working families.

Excellence in Government. Government should work for the people in an efficient and effective manner, acting as a catalyst for success rather than a hurdle. Government must promptly react to the needs of its people and allow citizens and the market to guide sound policy.

The following report is a summary of all hearings, tours and events pursued by the 2023-2024 Republican Policy Committee from January through March 2024. This 2024 Q1 report provides a glimpse into the wide range of issues and concerns addressed by the Committee and potential solutions to the obstacles unearthed. Further information to build upon what is included in this report, such as testimony, testifier biographies, and videos can be found at <a href="https://www.pagoppolicy.com">www.pagoppolicy.com</a>.

1-0/4

Chairman Joshua D. Kail

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# HOPE

FEBRUARY 22 A State Lost in Addiction: Pennsylvania's Path to Recovery
MARCH 8 Safeguarding Our Community From Fraud
OPPORTUNITY
JANUARY 17 Strengthening Our Rural Communities
FEBRUARY 7 Navigating the Future of Al
PROSPERITY
JANURARY 16 Advancing Our Rural Connectivity
MARCH 26 Regulating Skill Games
MARCH 28 Balancing Your Budget & Thermostat: Consumer-Focused Energy Policy
EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT
FEBRUARY 21 Removing Obstacles to Opportunity to Save the Cokeburg Dam
Removing Obstacles to Opportunity: Growing Pennsylvania's Agriculture
FEBRUARY 28 Removing Obstacles to Opportunity: Building Pennsylvania
THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS AT WORK
Committee Tours       32         In the News       37         Deputy Policy Committee Chairs       41         2024 Q1 Action Items       42         2024 Q1 At A Glance       45         2024 Q1 Timeline       46
<b>2023–24 Session At A Glance</b>



# HOPE





"I don't think there is a single family that hasn't been affected by this evil that is opioid addiction."

### TESTIFIERS



"We cannot arrest our way out of this nationwide nightmare."



"We've lost mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children... the whole gamut."



"Prevention is the most effective and affordable treatment strategy."



"Substance abuse disorders must be approached as a multifactorial disease state."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# A State Lost in Addiction:

# Pennsylvania's Path to Recovery

February 22, 2024

The Crane Room Grille

Hosted by Rep. Marla Brown

Communities across the Commonwealth are lost in addiction. Young and old, rural and urban, rich and poor, no demographic is immune to substance use disorders. The Policy Committee traveled to New Castle to hear from experts in substance abuse law, pathology, counseling, and recovery. There is hope for Pennsylvanians, resources are available, and we must find how we can best support each other on our state's path to recovery.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

#### **UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- ► The Lawrence County D.A. prosecutes nearly 1,600 cases per year, with 90% of these cases involving drugs. 80% of drug cases involve heroin and/or fentanyl.
- State correctional institutions have a 50%-70% recidivism rate — offenders are returning to lives of crime.
- Users must assume fentanyl is in everything. No drug is "safe" today.
- ► If a packet of sugar were pure fentanyl it would be enough to kill 600-1,000 people.
- Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer also known as "tranq," is becoming increasingly added to opioids. Narcan is totally ineffective against xylazine!
- ▶ 4 in 5 overdose deaths in Lawrence County include xylazine.

#### UNDERSTANDING RECOVERY

- Substance abuse disorders and underlying mental and physical health are directly intertwined.
- ► Chemical dependency affects 15% of our population.
- ► The stigma attached to substance use disorders impedes a person's chances of achieving a clean life.

## **TESTIFIERS**



"There is no greater pain than having to bury a child."

Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.



- ▶ Dope sickness is just as powerful as the underlying addiction. The sickness forces the use of opioids, even if the user wants to quit.
- ► Those in recovery are the best to share the message of hope to active drug users. Their experience and understanding empowers others.
- ► Attitude is key to recovery. A substance user must WANT to quit and better their life before real change can occur.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support.

- Control the border. During COVID, when the U.S. border was closed, the flow of narcotics into Lawrence County dropped significantly. Opioids like fentanyl primarily stem from China and enter through the northern and southern border.
- Offer career opportunities to ex-offenders. Lawrence County began "Jail to Jobs" in 2014. More than 500 men and women have found jobs in the community through this program.
- Provide halfway homes to encourage safe recovery
- Educational efforts must begin at a young age, ideally before high school.
- Enforce strong and consistent consequences for drug dealers.
- Agonist and Antagonist Treatments: Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Naltrexone.
  - These treatments reduce opioid cravings or block the effects of opioids.





"The only way we're going to stop this is through education."

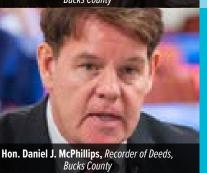
# TESTIFIERS



"There needs to be severe consequences for the individuals committing these scam crimes of deception and fraud."

Hon. Jennifer Schorn, District Attorney,
Bucks County

"These people, scammers, are predators in sheep's clothing preying upon our most vulnerable."



"Unfortunately, deed fraud does happen, but it doesn't have to happen to you."



"Protecting customers from fraud is a serious undertaking for all of us at PECO."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# Safeguarding Our Community From Fraud

March 8, 2024

Neshaminy Activity Center Hosted by Rep. Joe Hogan

Scams impact all Pennsylvanians. Our law enforcement officials and businesses work diligently to protect our communities, but the best safeguard against fraud starts with the individual. To inform both the caucus and the community about the growing risks of fraud, the Policy Committee traveled to Bucks County to learn from experts about emerging threats and technologies in the fight against fraud.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

### **COUNTY SAFEGUARDS**

- Anyone can be a victim of a scam. Scams and fraud should be brought to the attention of your local police. These are serious crimes, victims are harmed, and our police want to help our communities.
- ➤ A phone scammer has masqueraded as the Bucks County Sheriff's Department, demanding payment from victims for fake fines. Even the phone number is "spoofed" to appear real.
- No authority or business will require you to pay via cryptocurrency or gift cards.
- ► Be wary of leaving physical checks in unsecured locations like personal mailboxes. Criminals are now literally "washing" the check and inputting new information.
- ► Bucks County, and most other counties, offers a Free Fraud Alert program for property owners.
- Free Fraud Alert informs you anytime a document is recorded by the Recorder of Deeds with your name and/ or tax parcel number.
- No private company is capable of "locking" your title in Pennsylvania.
- ► FRAUD RED FLAGS: Scammers create high pressure situations to manipulate their victims.
  - A false warrant for the victim's arrest.
  - A loved one is in trouble or injured.
  - Threats of turning off utilities or losing a home.

# **TESTIFIERS**



"Each year, millions of older Americans suffer billions in irrecoverable losses."



"We need to both be able to report these scams and also STOP the transfer before it begins."



#### **CONSUMER SAFEGUARDS**

- ➤ The greatest anti-fraud tool for utility companies like PECO is an informed customer base.
- ▶ PECO will never ask for cash, gift cards, or other uncommon forms of payment.
- ➤ Though difficult to quantify, it is believed that only 1 in 44 fraud cases are officially reported.
- ▶ 1 in 5 seniors are believed to have been victimized by financial fraud
- ► It is nearly impossible for a bank to retrieve funds once delivered to a scammer.
- Common scams include:
  - Fake Check Scams: A victim cashes a fake check, which then is used to unwittingly launder stolen funds back to the scammer.
  - Government Imposter Scams: A "government agent" will defraud a victim through claims of a warrant, fine, or risk of arrest.
  - **Romance Scams:** The fraudster pretends to be a love interest of a victim and demands money.

#### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support.

- Develop a multi-municipality fraud task force to assist smaller communities. Similar to statewide drug task forces.
- Punishments for scammers must be both rehabilitative and punitive to deter crime.
- Impose mandatory sentencing minimums for crimes against the elderly or vulnerable.
- PA Bankers Association supports Rep. Hogan's HB2064 — The legislation establishes a clear framework for banks to halt suspicious transactions to safeguard the accounts of older adults







"Government should not make it harder for people to enter the workforce."

### TESTIFIERS



"Mercer County has to move fast... we have the right people, in the right places, at the right time."



Development, Penn-Northwest Development

Corporation

"It is imperative that we capture these young men and women prior to them settling down somewhere else."

Tracy Mantzell, Realtor, RE/MAX Select Realty

"If we don't have homes for people to live in, they cannot move here."



"In order to keep and attract workers to the area we need more than jobs. We need local services, activities, retail, restaurants, entertainment, etc."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# Strengthening Our Rural Communities

January 17, 2024

Penn-Northwest Development Corporation

Hosted by Rep. Parke Wentling

Pennsylvania's rural population has experienced a steady decline over the past decade. Impending challenges posed by our aging population, a growing lack of housing, and the lack of an abundant native workforce places Pennsylvania at a critical juncture. The Policy Committee traveled to rural Mercer County to address the profound implications of these demographic shifts, aiming to explore innovative strategies that can attract and sustain a robust workforce within our rural regions.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPERS**

- Mercer County's most significant obstacle is the consistent annual population decline of 1% over the last 30 years
   with a particular decline in young families and school enrollment.
- From 1996 to 2006, Mercer County lost 7,000 manufacturing jobs.
  - These jobs have since returned through the organic growth of existing companies.
- ► Rural areas are positioned to capture population migration stemming from the work-from-home phenomenon.
  - Mercer County has more jobs than people to fill them.
  - More people are looking for housing than there are houses available.
  - Workforce development programs are ineffective without adequate housing.
  - There is a significant housing shortage in Mercer County, especially for new construction under \$250K.
- ► Current home buyers demand these modern amenities:
  - Low-maintenance options like condos or townhouses.
  - Move-in ready homes with modern finishes.
  - High-speed internet and 200 AMP electrical service for electric vehicle charging stations.
  - Proximity to shops and restaurants.
  - Solid investment potential and appreciation.

# **TESTIFIERS**



"If we can keep people for 90 days, we tend to keep them for 20 years."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

#### PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYERS

- ➤ A shortage of skilled workers for manufacturing has led to increased reliance on automation.
  - Early exposure to manufacturing and technical career training is critical to building a local workforce.
- ► The lack of affordable housing poses serious challenges to retaining a workforce.
- External challenges include:
  - Informing students of manufacturing job opportunities.
  - Combatting the stigma against non-college pathways.
  - Attracting diverse talent from outside of the region.
- ► The growth of the Mercer County Career Center is a positive development for the region.
- Successful internship programs, supported through CareerLink, have proven effective in recruiting talented employees from local schools.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support

- Suggested opportunities to attract and retain new employees include:
  - Allocating funds from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) for housing projects
  - Exploring new revenue sources like the State Rainy Day Fund, Hotel Tax, Sales Tax, and Tax Credits.
  - Establishing a dedicated funding stream for smaller Certified Economic Development Organizations and Economic Development Corporations.
- Mercer County needs to leverage existing educational institutions 12 school districts, four colleges, and two
  technical schools in its attraction and retention efforts.
  - The Mercer County Career Center has reached record high attendance in back-to-back years
- Rural communities must explore innovative initiatives to spur population growth
  - ◆ Create Pennsylvania Rural Opportunity Zones (PROZ), similar to Kansas' PROZ, offering income tax waivers, student loan repayments, and financial incentives to attract skilled workers.
  - Amend the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program (PTRR) to support young adults within their first three years
    of college graduation and provide financial assistance for relocation.





"I don't want to see a place where information becomes so centralized that it stifles progress and creativity."

### TESTIFIERS



ChatGPT, Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer, OpenAl

"In Pennsylvanian there is an opportunity to leverage AI for economic growthm job creations and enhanced public services."



Charles Palmer, Associate Professor and Program Lead of Interactive Media, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

"Let us commit to harnessing the potential of generative AI responsibly, ethically, and inclusively."



"We want state lawmakers to rely on established national frameworks."

"We urge policymakers to enact smart regulations NOW."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# Navigating the Future of Al

February 7, 2024

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

Hosted by Chairman Kail

To prepare for the opportunities of the future we must be forward-thinking and innovative. Artificial intelligence, or AI, is increasingly present in our lives, careers, and communities. To learn about the potential for this tool, and the risks it may hold, the Policy Committee convened to discuss our AI future.

## **TAKEAWAYS**

#### **AI PANEL**

\*ChatGPT was prompted to provide testimony to the Committee concerning the future of AI technology in PA.

- ► ChatGPT does not "think." Instead, it uses existing online data and predictive language programs to answer complex questions in full sentences with high grammatical accuracy.
- ► Through pattern recognition and coding decisions can be made by AI.
- ► ChatGPT CANNOT predict with certainty future events such as the most likely winner of the SuperBowl or an election.
- ► AI is currently being used to enable:
  - Autonomous driving
  - Healthcare diagnostics
  - Predicting market trends
  - Improving manufacturing processes
- ► Midjourney AI₁ an art generative tool₁ won a contest for emerging artists in 2022.



Madison Gooch, Vice President of watsonx,

#### **HUMAN PANEL**

- ► Recent advances in AI technology have increased accessibility to AI tools, namely Natural Language Processing, which improves the interaction between humans and machines through easing communication.
- ► There is a need for transparency in Al. Transparency in the product's origin and training data help to ensure responsible and ethical use.
- Al will not directly replace teachers, at least not anytime soon, but will be used to augment lessons and assist with different learning styles.
- ► Chat GPT-4, the premiere large language model, was trained on 1 petabyte of data **1/20th of the information within the Library of Congress.**
- ► Generative AI has enabled high-quality "deepfake" audio and video. AI has been deployed to influence the New Hampshire primary and generate fake news.
- ▶ Chat GPT-4 has performed exceedingly well on standardized tests:
  - 90th percentile on the Bar exam
  - 93rd percentile on the SAT
  - Passed all three parts of the medical licensing exam
- ▶ All is projected to enhance human productivity and unlock an astounding \$16 trillion in value by 2030.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support

- The following regulatory principles should be followed:
  - Develop comprehensive data privacy laws.
  - Rely on National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and established national frameworks.
  - Allow developers to address problems before punitive actions are taken.
  - Don't force developers to divulge proprietary industry knowledge
  - Any state-level enforcement should only stem from the Attorney General do not allow Private Right of Action, as it generates frivolous lawsuits.
- IBM offered the following suggestions:
  - ◆ Regulate All not All algorithms
    - > Regulate when, where, and how Al is used. Regulate the risk, not the technology.
  - Make Al creators and deployers accountable, not immune from liability.
    - > Example: Employment decisions made by Al cannot be immune from discrimination claims
  - Support open Al innovation, not an Al licensing regime.
    - > A licensing regime risks regulatory capture. An open AI ecosystem is good for competition, innovation, skilling, and security.







"We need to continue to put pressure on the government to bring high-speed broadband to the forefront."

### TESTIFIERS



"Unfortunately, DSL is most people's only option."

Valley Community Volunteer Fire Co.

Rachel Papuga, Project Manager, Alleghenies Broadband Inc.

"Closing the broadband adoption gap should be a priority for community leaders."

Hon. Jeff Thomas, President and Chairman, Alleghenies Broadband Inc. Board of Directors, and Huntingdon County Commissioner

"The goal of Huntingdon County and the surrounding six counties is the same as yours: broadband to everyone."



"Our process is cost efficient and delivers effective internet connections to our most rural homes and businesses."

Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# **Advancing Our Rural** Connectivity

January 16, 2024

Huntingdon County's Bailey Building Hosted by Rep. Rich Irvin

In an era where internet access and cellular service have transformed from a luxury to a necessity, the significance of broadband expansion in rural areas cannot be overstated. The Policy Committee convened to discuss the intricacies of regional hurdles and explore how the Commonwealth can proactively advance our rural connectivity.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

- ► Huntingdon County proactively explored broadband expansion prior to the 2020 pandemic — this allowed the county to swiftly qualify for funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- Digital skills education is needed to address the technology use gap, especially among older residents.
- Regulatory hurdles, permitting delays, an aging population, and lack of access to state and federal lands slow down the deployment of broadband infrastructure in rural communities.
- Fiber-optic infrastructure is the ideal solution for reliable and high-speed internet access in rural areas.
- ▶ The lack of reliable internet connections disallows. emergency responders from investing in newer tools such as map markup and Electric Vehicle (EV) apps.

#### **BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY**

- ► More than 290,000 locations in Pennsylvania lack access to reliable, high-speed internet service.
- Rural communities are disproportionately impacted while only 26% of PA residents live in rural areas, over 81% of the 290,000 locations without internet access are found in rural areas.

### **TESTIFIERS**



"In order to succeed, every effort must be taken to deploy these federal tax dollars as efficiently and judiciously as possible."



Broadband Development Authority

"We have an opportunity to connect these communities with the nearly \$1.5 billion in federal funding."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

- Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) has developed a "Broadband Ready Communities" program to help local governments reduce procedural, policy, and permitting barriers.
- ➤ The anticipated deficit in skilled workers will be addressed through partnerships with the Department of Labor & Industry, apprenticeship programs, and on-the-job training opportunities.
- Innovative solutions have been pursued by the Rural Broadband Cooperative (RBC).
  - "Fixed wireless" broadband internet service is provided to remote areas, including off-grid locations, and serves 450 members.
  - Leasing towers is cost-prohibitive (\$1,200 to \$1,500 per month), so RBC uses repurposed and donated towers to transmit the signal from fiber cuts to antennas closer to residents' homes.
  - RBC distributes signals from shorter poles (12 to 15 feet), avoiding topographical signal interference.

#### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support.

- Streamline regulations and facilitate access to funding for smaller providers.
- Utilize a dig-once and open-trench policies to reduce construction costs
- Balance public land missions and accessibility with the need for telecommunications infrastructure construction





"It is time for us to actually take some action."

# TESTIFIERS



"90% of the revenue from skill games stays right here in the Commonwealth."



"Our members should be allowed to offer legal forms of gaming in their establishments to entertain their patrons."



"Skill games have made a huge difference for my Post. I don't know what we would do without them."



Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# **Regulating Skill Games**

March 26, 2024

Main Capitol Hosted by Rep. Russ Diamond

Pennsylvania skill games are found in our local restaurants, taverns, social clubs, and community spaces. In every county these machines are enjoyed by players and provide revenue for mom-and-pop businesses. We recognize the need for legislation and regulation regarding skill games, but thus far this session there has not been a single meeting of the Gaming Oversight Committee. At Chairman Diamond's request, the Policy Committee took the lead and brought together skill games manufacturers and businesses to learn what the future may hold for regulating skill games in Pennsylvania.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

- Skill games ARE NOT gambling. Pennsylvania's courts have reaffirmed this decision for a decade. Skill is required to succeed at the game, not random luck.
  - 2014 Beaver County Court of Common Pleas (first case)
  - 2023 Commonwealth Court Decision (recent case)
- ▶ 18,000 Pace-O-Matic games legally operate in the Commonwealth.
- ► There are likely 50,000-60,000 games in the market that were not made by Pace-O-Matic. These games may be illegal.
- ➤ Skill games provide \$30,000-\$50,000 per year in revenue per machine.
- ► If the tax is too high there is a risk that businesses will remove their games, not install skill games, or even install illegal games. A lower tax than what the Governor proposed will garner HIGHER revenue.
- Skill games are manufactured in PA, and 90% of revenue stays in the Commonwealth.
- For businesses, the revenue from skill games has:
  - Provided 401(k)s and higher wages for bar and restaurant staff.
  - Kept family-owned establishments open post COVID.
  - Attracted customers who enjoy playing the games.
  - Provided greater financial resiliency to PA businesses and nonprofits.

- For American Legion Post 733, the revenue from skill games has:
  - Supported local scouting uniforms, books, and gear
  - Supported local school children backpacks and school supplies
  - Supported families holiday parties and Toys for Tots
  - Supported veterans the Post is open 24/7 for veterans and their families
- ▶ Without skill games many VFWs, American Legion Posts, and small businesses would not have survived the COVID lockdowns.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support.

- Pace-O-Matic wants to be taxed and regulated! Pace-O-Matic supports SB706 and HB2075. Projected tax revenue is estimated to be \$300 million annually.
- The taxation percentage on skill games should differ based on the location of the game. Ex. Within a nonprofit vs. a business.
- PLBTA believes an acceptable tax on skill games should be between 18%—22%
  - The % taxed should be on NET income
- Mistakes were made with PA's Tavern Gaming Licenses. There are only 39 licensees in the state, and the projected tax revenue never materialized due to high taxation (65%) and bureaucracy that deterred taverns from pursuing the license.
- Bars and taverns would like to host both skill games AND Video Gambling Terminals (VGTs).





"Ultimately, the Republican Party is for the consumer."

# TESTIFIERS



"America leads the world in emission reductions, and that is largely due to Pennsylvania natural gas."



"Consumer demand for electricity is expected to continue to rise."



"Energy needs to be dependable and inexpensive!"



# Balancing Your Budget & Thermostat:

# Consumer-Focused Energy Policy

March 28, 2024

Salem Township Municipal Building

Hosted by Rep. Mike Cabell

Pennsylvania, home to tremendous natural resources and energy generators, still struggles to provide affordable energy to our residents and businesses. The price of energy is within the cost of all products and services we buy, and a surefire way to combat across-the-board inflation is to lessen the toll of energy costs on our families and industries. To preserve our energy independence and maintain the Commonwealth's position as an energy powerhouse the Policy Committee traveled across the state to hear from experts, our industries, and residents on what should be considered when pursuing a consumer-focused energy policy. The world is a better place with Pennsylvania energy!

# **TAKEAWAYS**

### **ENERGY EXPERT**

- ► Families in Pennsylvania average \$3,100 per year on their energy needs.
- ≥ 2/3 of PA households rely on natural gas for heat.
- ► Heating with electricity is 266% more expensive than natural gas.
- ▶ PA energy infrastructure is not prepared for the needs of our future. Brownouts and blackouts are on the horizon if we lose our baseload (thermal) energy generators.
- ► In the last 30 years, thanks to natural gas and new technologies, PA has reduced:
  - Carbon Monoxide by 80%
  - Nitrogen Oxide by 79%
  - Particulate Matter by 73%
  - Sulfur Dioxide by 96%
  - Volatile Organic Compounds by 61%
  - Ammonia by 45%

- ► The growing push for Electric Vehicles does not consider the infrastructure or energy needs. Our homes, businesses, communities, and energy generators are NOT ready for this forced transition.
- Faux environmental stewardship efforts in PA are largely driven by NIMBY concerns.

#### **ENERGY PROVIDERS**

- ► Energy generators are cornerstones of their community's tax base. Tax revenue supports our schools, community spaces, and local economic activity.
- ▶ Because of Pennsylvania's competitive energy market, the financial risk of new power-generating resources falls on the investor, not the ratepayer.
- ► PA natural gas-powered generators are among the most efficient in the world, operating at 60% efficiency (older generators operate at 30%-50% efficiency).
  - From 2005-2020, gas power generation increased by 52% while overall generator emissions decreased 44%.
- Energy generators invest in PA because of:
  - Our competitive energy market
  - Our access to natural resources
  - Our existing infrastructure
  - · Our skilled workforce

#### **PA RESIDENTS**

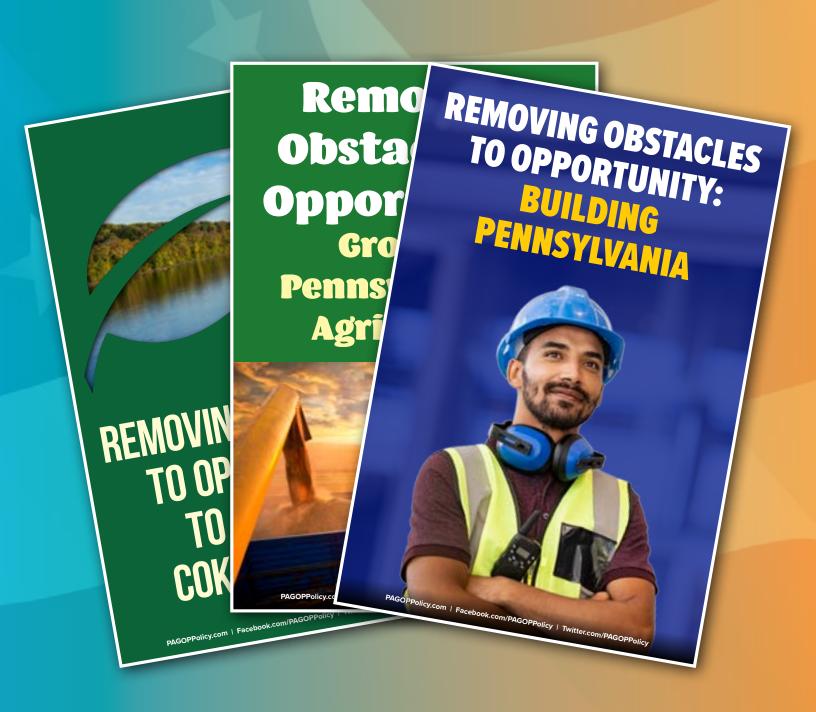
- ▶ Last year, Butler Township electric costs rose 18%-26% depending on the consumer.
- ▶ Rising energy costs limit what the township can do for its residents. Maintenance costs increase, roads fall into disrepair, and available community services are lessened.
- ▶ Efforts were made, and then stopped, for a solar farm to be built in the township. The nominal energy production and very low tax revenue made the project impractical, and it was canceled.
- PA residents can be confused by their energy bill. Making sense of the "Delivery Charge" and the "System Improvement Charge" is not intuitive.

### **SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS**

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support.

- Utilize PA's existing natural resources. We have the oil, gas, and coal to power the East Coast
- Encourage baseload thermal energy generation. Without new gas or coal-powered generators we risk rolling blackouts. RGGI, and talk of new taxation, rightfully scared away investment.
- Consider existing grid capabilities before forcing new electric vehicle or appliance mandates. Our grid can only support so much.
- Continue the transition toward utilizing more natural gas. PA is blessed with an abundance; it is clean burning, efficient, and inexpensive.







"We are here to save, resurrect, and put this community asset back into action!"

### TESTIFIERS



"This dam has been a beacon of recreation and a symbol of everything wholesome to our youth."

"The water reservoir, from a fire chief standpoint, provides great peace of mind."



# Removing Obstacles to Opportunity to Save the Cokeburg Dam

February 21, 2024

Cokeburg Volunteer Fire Department Hosted by Rep. Bud Cook

The Cokeburg Dam has served as a community space for more than 100 years, spanning generations of families and friendships. The dam holds back a small reservoir which is enjoyed by the community and fishermen, and ensures first responders have means to combat fires and emergencies. Decades of back-and-forth between local officials and DEP over the status of the dam have reached a fever pitch, and at the behest of Rep. Bud Cook the Policy Committee traveled to Washington County to bring hope to all those who wish to continue to enjoy the Cokeburg Dam.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

#### TIMELINE OF THE COKEBURG DAM

- ▶ **1902** Constructed by the Bethlehem Mine Corporation as "Reservoir Number 4."
- ▶ **1953** Cokeburg Borough acquired the dam and used the reservoir as a local water source.
- ▶ 1958 through 1992 The reservoir was stocked with fish for recreation.
- ▶ 1981 A routine National Dam Inspection by the Army Corp. of Engineers designated the dam as a "high hazard small dam".
- ▶ 1989 The dam was updated and repaired.
- ▶ **2000** DEP expressed concerns over the previous repairs and requested modifications.
- ▶ **2001** DEP sent a letter noting the satisfactory completion of the repairs.
- ▶ **2007** DEP cites the 1981 report and determines that further repairs are needed. According to DEP, previous correspondence to the contrary were in error.
- ▶ 2009 Cokeburg Borough engineering team works toward a DEP approved design.

- ▶ **July 2012** —The sale of the reservoir water supply to Charleroi Water Authority was abandoned, and the dam classification was amended from high hazard to low hazard.
- ▶ **December 2012** DEP concurred with the design plans made by the borough engineers.
- ▶ 2013 Cokeburg Borough received a DCED grant, but most was returned due to DEP delays.
- ▶ 2016 DEP reneges on their dam classification and reclassifies the dam as high hazard. This reclassification requires an engineering design change.
- ▶ **2019 through 2020** Borough engineers offered 5 updated plans for DEP to review.
- ▶ 2023 Rep. Bud Cook reignites conversation between DEP and the borough.
- ▶ December 2023 DEP required the water to be drawn down in the reservoir.
- ► February 2024 DEP claimed to not have received an inspection report. THIS REPORT WAS PROVIDED IN 2020. Borough engineers provided the report again, along with the reference number from 2020.
- ► A project that was once less than \$1 million now costs \$10 million to complete!
- ▶ DEP has not visited the dam in person for at least the last 5 years.

#### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support.

- DEP must make a determination and stick with it
  - Changing opinions have led to Local Share Account (LSA) grants being unable to be utilized, and excessive funding is allocated towards engineering fees instead of maintenance.
- DEP must consider grant applicability within their permitting and review process.
  - ◆ Grants received by Pennsylvanians have been squandered by DEP's inability to collaborate.





"We are here to help you guys today, but also help the future farmers of tomorrow."

### TESTIFIERS



"Consistency and transparency really help throughout the permitting process."



"The next thing you know you're not a farmer anymore, you're just pushing paperwork for the government."



"Today's regulatory horror story was decades in the making."



"They're not making any new farmland anymore."

**Robert Garrett,** *President and CEO, Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce* 

Click on the testifiers picture above to view their testimony.

# Removing Obstacles to Opportunity: Growing Pennsylvania's Agriculture

February 27, 2024

Turbotville Community Center Hosted by Rep. Mike Stender

For all of Pennsylvania's history the hills and valleys of our Commonwealth have been cultivated to support our families and communities. Today, overbearing regulations and onerous permitting are crushing our farmers. To learn how the Legislature can right these wrongs, the Policy Committee traveled to Northumberland County to hear from farmers and experts to discover what must be done to grow Pennsylvania's agriculture for generations to come.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

- Farms in PA are generally family-owned, multigenerational operations.
- ▶ Farmers, out of necessity, have begun to conduct pre-permit application meetings. They meet with the appropriate state agency, learn which staff members will be responsible for reviewing their permit, and discuss the best path to receiving the permit before their initial application.
- Larger farming operations have been forced to hire a full-time employee purely to navigate regulations and compliance.
- ► There is no singular place to find all the permits a farm needs and learn which regulations to follow.
- ▶ It's not possible to "get your money back" from the permitting process. Significant funds are spent preparing the initial permit that can never be recovered.
- ► The ACRE (Agriculture, Communities, and Rural Environment) program, which went into effect in 2005, disallows local ordinances from exceeding or conflicting with state law. This law was a necessity and provides predictability throughout the state.

- ▶11 total state agencies have some degree of oversight of aquaculture farms.
- The largest obstacle for aquaculture farming is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit. A majority of aquaculture farms cannot achieve this permit as they grow, and thus cannot expand legally.
- ▶DEP and the Department of Agriculture may inspect a farm at any time, for any reason.
- ► Half of small farmers' efforts go toward maintaining regulatory compliance. It is a major time commitment.
- ▶ New farmland is not being produced. We must conserve what farmland we have and empower our farmers to utilize their lands efficiently and profitably.

### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support

- The General Assembly must recognize and use its authority to disapprove unnecessary regulations.
- Purely electronic permitting is not ideal for agriculture. Many farmers still rely on paper, so it must remain an option
- · Allot seats on the board for the Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission to farmers.
- Many "mays" within law should be rewritten as "shall." DEP interprets a "may" as almost always a NO.
- · The attitudes of our state agencies must change. Be collaborative, not punitive.
- NPDES permits, and many permits for agricultural operations, should be free or low cost for farmers.
- Create a regulatory system with incentives for GOOD behavior. Regulations are written to address the bad actors, but harm everyone.





"Our testifiers didn't just come with problems; they came with solutions."

### TESTIFIERS



"Housing demand is through the roof!"

"Uniform Construction

Codes are not applied

uniformly."

Nick Boyle, Developer



"There is a guiltyuntil-proven-innocent mentality in permitting."



# Removing Obstacles to Opportunity: Building Pennsylvania

February 28, 2024

Tamaqua Community Arts Center
Hosted by Rep. Jamie Barton

The Commonwealth cannot grow its population or industries without new homes and businesses. State regulations, onerous building codes, environmental reviews, and varied interpretations of the law have all combined to impede our developers from building Pennsylvania. The Policy Committee traveled to Tamaqua to learn what must be done to empower our builders and communities as they work to support the families and entrepreneurs residing in our state.

# **TAKEAWAYS**

- ► PA has 166,219 statutes 30,000 more than the average state.
- In 2010, via the late Garth Everett's legislation, Pennsylvania chose to NOT ADOPT building codes that would have required all new homes to contain sprinkler systems. This code was onerous, expensive, and entirely unnecessary.
- The cost to comply with renovation and safety-related codes is now so expensive that projects are unprofitable without subsidies and tax breaks.
- Strict zoning regulations are impeding the revitalization of small towns.
- Knowing which permits are necessary, and where to request them, varies dramatically between municipalities.
- Consumers bear the cost of excessive regulation and permitting fees through either higher rent prices or lessened available real estate.
- ► If renovation costs exceed 50.1% of the building's cost the entire building must then be brought up to today's codes.
- ► A permit for a surface-mining coal operation takes between 2–3 years, and costs hundreds of thousands of dollars.

- ► A complete permit application for a coal mine contains 95 documents, 6 separate submissions, and amounts to 800 pages of documentation.
- A "bottleneck" in the permitting process occurs during the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) environmental review process. The process is time consuming, ever expanding, and has been abused by activist groups.

#### SUGGESTIONS FROM TESTIFIERS

The suggestions provided below are for general informational purposes only and are not indicative of caucus-wide support

- Any statute that contains the word "may" should be replaced with "shall." "May" is used by state agencies to quash projects and permits.
- Zoning should vary by the style of the community urban, suburban, pre-1900s, modern, etc.
- Code enforcement should recognize the value of renovating and retaining older downtown structures as opposed to forcing their demolition.
- Building permits should not be solely at the whim of local government. Builders should be able to receive permits
  from any certified and approved state entity regardless of the build site.



# JANUARY 17, 2024 SHELL PETROCHEMICAL PLANT

Hosted by Chairman Joshua D. Kail

The oil and gas beneath Pennsylvania's shale is refined into the products we use every day thanks to the technology and workforce of the Shell Petrochemical Plant. The Policy Committee explored the nearly 400-acre property, saw the ethane crackers in action, and followed the process to its conclusion in its production of polyethylene pellets used for all manners of plastic manufacturing. The opportunities presented by the facility have brought immense prosperity to Pennsylvania, and the Commonwealth is blessed to be home to this modern marvel of science and engineering.







### FEBRUARY 7, 2024

# HARRISBURG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hosted by Chairman Joshua D. Kail

The new \$100 million Science Education Center is a gem within Harrisburg. State-of-the-art advanced manufacturing machines, such as 3D printers, multi-axis mills, and robotics, provide an ever-growing student body with the tools and skills required to build Pennsylvania's future. Students, entrepreneurs, and existing businesses all collaborate in one place to bring new ideas and innovation to the Commonwealth and beyond.



# FEBRUARY 21, 2024 COKEBURG DAM

Hosted by Rep. Bud Cook

For 100 years, generations of Pennsylvanians have enjoyed the quaint Cokeburg Dam. The dam and reservoir serve as a place for community, casual fishing, and fond memories. The dam was both inspected and updated in the 1980s by the Army Corps of Engineers, but DEP has hamstrung efforts to bring the community space to its former grandeur. Now, no fishermen or families can access this beloved community asset. As the cost to comply with DEP's everchanging demands increase, time is of the essence to SAVE THE COKEBURG DAM.





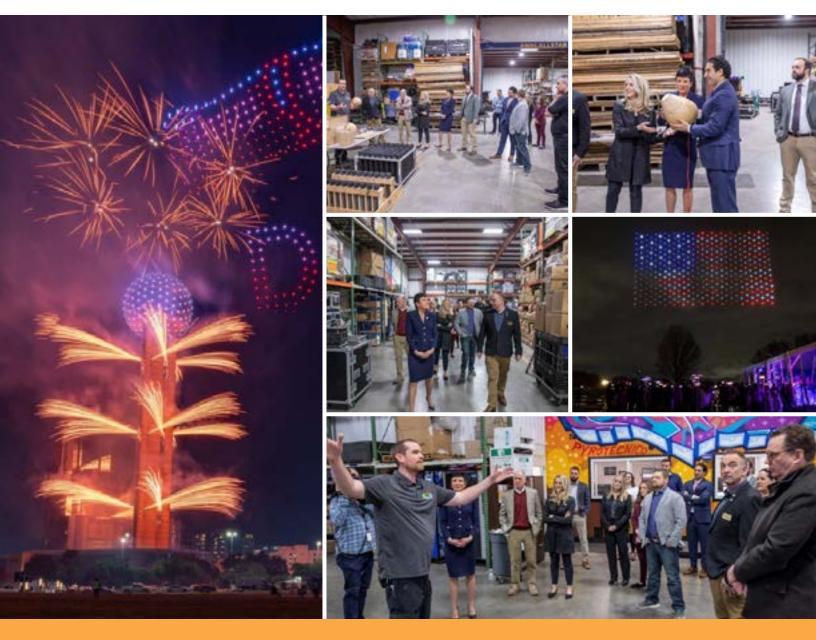




# FEBRUARY 22, 2024 PYROTECNICO FIREWORKS

Hosted by Rep. Marla Brown

Whether it be for the SuperBowl, your favorite concert, or your own backyard the tools and expertise needed to make for a memorable evening can be found right here in PA. While in New Castle, the Policy Committee brought attention to a proud PA business that has brought wonder and excitement to millions, the family-owned multigenerational Pyrotecnico Fireworks. From the mortars of yesteryear to the drones of today, the tradition of awe-inspiring shows lives on in Lawrence County.



# MARCH 7, 2024 MARCUS HOOK INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Hosted by Rep. Craig Williams

Oil and gas from every corner of the state finds a home and a market at the Marcus Hook Industrial Complex. Products are stored, refined, tested, and transferred to waiting tanker ships, railcars, and trucks that travel worldwide. This vital complex is where ethane was first shipped internationally, where the allies acquired their jet fuel during WWII, and where NASCAR derives 100% of its racing fuel. The complex was integral to our successes of the past, revolutionizes global energy today, and is key to maintaining Pennsylvania's energy prowess long into the future.











# IN THE NEWS

# **ADVANCING OUR RURAL CONNECTIVITY**



# Pennsylvania

Broadband expansion turning into 'jobs program', leaving rural residents behind

## TRI-STATEALERT

The Local News Authority

Irvin, House Republicans continue push for expanding rural broadband internet

# STRENGTHENING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Pennsylvania

'Losing our stature' as rural housing supply dwindles

# RIVER REPORTER.

Wentling, Policy Committee hold hearing on strengthening rural communities

## NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF AI



Artificial Intelligence Testifies at Pennsylvania
House Hearing



Pennsylvania lawmakers hold hearing over future of artificial intelligence

# LNP LancasterOnline

Pa. GOP lawmakers hear from ChatGPT as they consider laws addressing artificial intelligence

# REMOVING OBSTACLES TO OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE COKEBURG DAM

Observer Reporter
Testimony heard in effort to resolve Cokeburg Dam
issues



Frustrations Flow At Cokeburg Dam Hearing

# A STATE LOST IN ADDICTION: PENNSYLVANIA'S PATH TO RECOVERY



Opioid crisis 'not a situation that can be solved by the police'

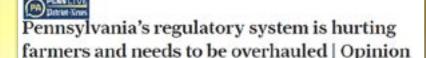
EllwoodCity
Brown, Policy Committee Host Hearing on
Pennsylvania's Drug Crisis

## **NEW CASTLE NEWS**

Hearing enlightens lawmakers of lethal drug problem

# REMOVING OBSTACLES TO OPPORTUNITY: GROWING PENNSYLVANIA'S AGRICULTURE

# The Standard-Journal Stender hosts agricultural hearing



# REMOVING OBSTACLES TO OPPORTUNITY: BUILDING PENNSYLVANIA

# REPUBLICAN HERALD

'Red tape' regulations push away viable projects, committee told





# SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITY FROM FRAUD

## TRI-STATEALERT

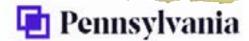
The Local News Authority

PA Republicans zero in on fraud protection



Pennsylvania Lawmakers and Community Leaders Unite to Combat Fraud Amid Rising Scam Incidents

## REGULATING SKILL GAMES



Precision deemed crucial for skill game taxes

## **CONSUMER-FOCUSED ENERGY POLICY**



# Pennsylvania Business Report

Republicans hold hearings on affordable, reliable energy

# DEPUTY POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Vice Chairman/ Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Torren Ecker (District 193, Adams/Cumberland)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Joe D'Orsie (District 47, York)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Ann Flood (District 138, Northampton)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Mike Jones (District 93, York)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Robert Leadbeter (District 109. Columbia)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Abby Major (District 60, Armstrong/ Westmoreland)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Zach Mako (District 183, Northampton/Lehigh)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Kristin Marcell (District 178, Bucks)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Rob Mercuri (District 28, Allegheny)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Natalie Mihalek (District 40, Allegheny/ Washington)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Eric Nelson (District 57, Westmoreland)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Clint Owlett (District 68, Bradford/Tioga)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Jim Rigby (District 71, Cambria/Somerset,



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. David Rowe (District 85, Snyder/ Juniata/Mifflin/Union)



**Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Jim Struzzi** (District 62, Indiana)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Craig Staats (District 145, Bucks)



Deputy Policy Chair Rep. Parke Wentling (District 7. Mercer)

# 2024 Q1 ACTION ITEMS

Testifiers who joined the Policy Committee have shared insight and ideas which the Legislature may act upon this session. Republicans have heeded the call, and proposed legislation to address the obstacles to opportunities expressed by experts, industry, and our workforce. The following compilation of legislative proposals are supported by testimony received by the Policy Committee and are current as of March 15, 2024.

Inclusion of legislation within this compilation is for general informational purposes only and is not indicative of caucus-wide support.

## **TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, AND CULTURE**

The Commonwealth has something for everyone. Residents enjoy vacation destinations in their own backyards, cultural amenities, and world class attractions. Growing and championing the offerings of the state retains existing residents and encourages visitors to plant their roots and grow their families.

- HB1301 Zimmerman Protecting Pennsylvania's Privately-Owned Campgrounds
- HR87 Ortitay Conservation Corridors
- HB496 Smith Wine Expanded Permits and the Sale of Wine
- HB265 R. Mackenzie Amusement Park Liquor License Update
- HB48 Mercuri Expanding Online Wine Sales
- HB1750 Leadbeter Ready-to-Drink Beverages Legislation
- HB1734 Scheuren Preserved Open Space Protection Act
- HB1713 Stambaugh Farmland Preservation
- HB2042 Dunbar Skills Games Legislation
- HB1970 Diamond Snowmobile Testing
- HB1959 Maloney Resident Hunting License Fee for Non-Resident Real Estate Tax Payers

#### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Addiction and the mental health ailments that often come with it impact all communities and demographics. To both combat the spread of illegal narcotics and assist Pennsylvanians in their path to mental and physical recovery there is a need for both compassion for the wayward and punishment for the dealers. To address this crisis and save lives House Republicans have put forward proposals to lead the Commonwealth on a path toward long-term recovery.

- HB969 Gaydos Prescription Drug Transparency to Reduce Prescription Abandonment
- HB1650 Gregory The Lifetime Recovery from Substance Abuse Grant Program
- HB22 Struzzi Behavioral Health Transition Procedure Update
- HB1255 Grove Medical Assistance Physical Health & Behavioral Health Integration
- HB1545 Hogan Digital Mental Health Services Pilot Program
- HB89 Marcell Health Care Heroes: Mental Health Assistance
- HB1900 Mako Amending Title 18 Drug Delivery Resulting in Death
- HB1695 Heffley Permanently Scheduling Nitazene (Synthetic Opioid) Compounds
- HB1691 Hogan Faster Identification of Emerging Street Drugs
- HB1690 Marcell Establishing a Public Awareness Campaign to Warn of the Growing Illicit Use of Xylazine
- HB1661 Metzger Criminalizing the Illicit Possession of Xylazine, with Veterinary Use Exemptions
- HB1712 Williams Technology to Reduce Recidivism for Repeat DUI Offenders

# 2024 Q1 ACTION ITEMS

#### PERMITTING AND REGULATORY REFORM

PA's permitting and regulatory climate is expensive, cumbersome, and often to the detriment of the state and our industries. House Republicans have put forward reasonable reforms and expectations for our state agencies that will enable the Commonwealth to remain competitive and encourage growth.

- HB734 Fink Permitting Transparency and Reform
- HB560 Zimmerman Online Permit Tracking System
- HB487 Keefer PA REINS Act
- HB888 Grove Increases General Assembly Oversight of IRRC
- HB914 Leadbeter Beneficial Reuse of Drill Cuttings
- HB1925 M. Mackenzie One-time Automatic Review of All Economically Significant Regulations
- HR257 Rigby Urging DEP to Halt Costly Biosolids Permit Changes
- HR236 Heffley Joint State Government Commission Truck Parking Study
- HB1731 Cabell Prohibiting Mandates on Mass Transit
- HB1643 Flick Petition EPA to Remove Lycoming County from the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program
- HB1679 Kutz Allowing In-Person Pickups for Dealer Plates and Inspection Stickers

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING/RECRUITMENT:** PA has an existing highly capable workforce, but the Commonwealth must attract new residents and continue to prepare the next generation for careers of the future. The state must position itself as a bastion of opportunity and family-supporting careers.

- HB1387 Kutz Realty Transfer Tax Exclusion for First-Time Home Buyers
- HB882 R. Mackenzie CareerBound Workforce Development Program
- HB25 Struzzi Building Our Future: Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Program
- HB1047 Delozier Building Code Official Trainee Program
- HB169 R. Mackenzie Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- HB1966 Marcell Instructors for Cosmetology Apprenticeship Program

**EASING LICENSING:** Navigating licensing requirements to enter the workforce should not be challenging. The Commonwealth must ease the licensing process to enable people to pursue their chosen career path.

- HB57 Owlett Professional License Applications Paper Applications
- HB1364 Greiner Authorizing Advisory Opinions from Licensing Boards
- HB1897 Major Tattoo Practice Act
- HB1969 Diamond COVID-19 Professional Licensure Amnesty

**MODERNIZATION:** Laws and regulations of yesteryear do not address the needs of the people and businesses of today. Efforts to review outdated law, and modernize it, will enable the Commonwealth to remain streamlined and competitive.

- HB591 Keefer Removing Barriers in Cosmetology
- HB1041 Rigby Mobile Barbershop and Mobile Salons
- HB565 Zimmerman Updates to Professional Engineer Licensing
- HB327 Mako Modernizes the Barber-Teacher Licensing Process
- HB1651 and 1652 Wentling Unification of the Commonwealth's Workforce Development System
- HB1906 Flood Regulating Pre-Employment Nondisclosure Agreements
- HB1590 Brown State Board of Cosmetology Inspectors

# 2024 Q1 ACTION ITEMS

#### **BUSINESS. INDUSTRY. AND CAREERS**

**MANUFACTURING:** PA's manufacturing might is hamstrung by licensing issues, poor code enforcement, and restrictive legislation. Efforts to better the Commonwealth's manufacturing climate will bring jobs, opportunity, and encourage innovation in our own backyards.

- HB955 Fritz Update to Breweries/Distilleries Law
- HB102 Causer Milk Hauling Legislation
- HB46 Owlett Amending the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:** Entrepreneurs struggle with PA's tax laws, antiquated business practices, and finding the ideal location for their enterprise. Commonsense changes, inspired by the advocacy of business operators throughout the state, will enable businesses to thrive and generate opportunity within their communities.

- HB995 Lawrence Keystone Opportunity Dairy Zones
- HB1238 Greiner Extension of Pennsylvania Rural Jobs and Investment Tax Credit (RJTC)
- HB701 Kutz Net Operating Loss for Small Businesses
- HR35 R. Mackenzie Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between Pennsylvania and the Chinese Communist Party
- HB1317 Struzzi Helping Disadvantaged Communities
- HB1447 Kephart Corporate Net Income Tax Reduction
- HB162 R. Mackenzie Electric Gross Receipt Tax
- HB274 R. Mackenzie E-Verify for All Public Contractors
- HB1511 Wentling Investing in Pennsylvania's Future PIDA Modernization
- HB757 Keefer Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act Contractor Misclassification
- HB1023 Fritz Incentivizing Build-out of Broadband Infrastructure
- HB1860 Ortitay Optimizing Retail Investor Options
- HB60 Mercuri A Simpler and More Certain Business Tax Environment
- HB2029 Mustello Modernize and Improve the Industrial Resource Centers Program's Statute
- HB1404 Topper Repeal Accelerated Sales Tax (AST) Prepayment Requirement

**SUPPORTING FAMILIES:** Families, the foundational block of Pennsylvania, should not bear the burden of taxation or struggle through times of financial hardship without support. To retain families in PA, and encourage more residents to call our state home, Pennsylvania must cultivate a climate of growth and opportunity for all who work to sustain their families.

- HB136 Gaydos Elimination of Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax
- HB166 R. Mackenzie Personal Income Tax Reduction
- HB1353 Labs Unemployment Compensation Eligibility Clarification
- HB160 R. Mackenzie Permanent Sales and Use Tax Exemption
- HB165 R. Mackenzie Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Expansion
- HB161 R. Mackenzie Sales and Use Tax Holidays for Certain Items
- HB717 R. Mackenzie Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption
- HB895 Grove Taxpayer Relief Act Update
- HB26 Struzzi Helping Grieving Families Through Unnecessary Tax Burdens
- HB2064 Hogan Protecting Older Adults Against Financial Exploitation



# 2024 Q1-AT A GLANCE

**Q1 2024** 

HEARING TIME

15h, 37m, 16s

**NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS** 

41

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS VISITED

11

**NUMBER OF HEARINGS** 

10

**CAUCUS PARTICIPATION** 

62%

MILES TRAVELED BY COMMITTEE

1,836

**23-24 SESSION** 

**HEARING TIME** 

79h, 14m, 9s

**NUMBER OF TESTIFIERS** 

196

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS VISITED

35

**NUMBER OF HEARINGS** 

45

**CAUCUS PARTICIPATION** 

94%

MILES TRAVELED BY COMMITTEE

8,371









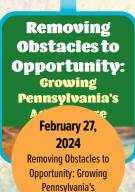












Agriculture





March 7, 2024
Tour of the
Marcus Hook
Refinery









**Contractors** 



# 23-24 SESSION—AT A GLANCE

# **MAP OF COUNTIES VISITED**



How many members have participated in **Policy Committee events this Session?** 

94% Have participated in at least one committee event

Have participated in at least two committee events

80% Have participated in three or more committee events



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSHU D. KAIL House Republican Policy Committee Chairman



#### BEAVER OFFICE

690 State Avenue, Beaver, PA 15009 • P: 724-728-7655

#### ATLASBURG OFFICE

1569 Smith Township Road, Atlasburg, PA 15021 • P: 724-587-3095

#### CAPITOL OFFICE

Room 414, Main Capitol Building, P.O. Box 202015, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2015 • P: 717-260-6144

/RepKail



RepKail.com