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Testimony Before the Pennsylvania House Policy Committee

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Small Conventional Oil & Gas Operator in Pennsylvania

Chairman Rowe, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. As the president of the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Coalition and a small conventional oil and gas operator, I am here to oppose Governor Shapiro's proposed hidden energy taxes which are hidden in (PACER) and his administration's continued reliance on a failing green energy agenda accelerated in (PRESS).

The push to tax Pennsylvania's reliable, homegrown energy while subsidizing unreliable green energy is not just bad policy—it's a direct threat to our economy, our grid stability, and our way of life.

The Myth of Green Energy Reliability

We have been told that wind and solar are the future, that they will replace fossil fuels, and that they will provide energy independence. But the truth is, wind and solar are unreliable, expensive, and require massive government subsidies just to stay afloat.

- **Intermittency:** The sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow. When that happens, the grid has to rely on conventional energy—oil, gas, coal, and nuclear—to keep the lights on. Unlike natural gas and oil, which provide consistent baseload power, renewables fail when we need them most.
- **Storage Limitations:** Green energy advocates claim that battery storage will solve intermittency issues, but the technology is nowhere near capable of replacing baseload energy. Large-scale battery storage is prohibitively expensive, environmentally hazardous, and can only provide a few hours of backup power—not the days or weeks needed during peak demand.

- **Grid Instability:** States that have aggressively pushed renewables, like California and Texas, have suffered rolling blackouts and grid failures. Pennsylvania cannot afford to follow in their footsteps.

The Economic Reality of Green Energy Subsidies

Governor Shapiro's energy policies prioritize tax breaks and subsidies for renewable projects while punishing the very industries that have powered this state for over a century. But what has this green energy push given us?

- **Higher Energy Costs:** Renewable energy mandates force utilities to buy more expensive wind and solar power, driving up electricity rates for businesses and households. Pennsylvania's electricity rates are up over 30% in the last 5 years and at a time when Pennsylvanians are already struggling with inflation, we cannot afford to make energy even more expensive.
- **Job Losses in the Conventional Energy Sector:** Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry supports thousands of jobs and provides millions in state and local tax revenue. Taxing our industry into decline will kill these jobs, weaken local economies, and make us more dependent on foreign energy.
- **Reliance on China for Critical Materials:** The wind turbines, solar panels, and batteries that the green energy movement depends on are largely produced using rare earth minerals from China—meaning we are trading our domestic energy security for foreign dependence.

Taxing the Reliable to Fund the Unreliable

Governor Shapiro's proposed energy taxes would impose additional burdens on Pennsylvania's conventional oil and gas producers while continuing to funnel money into unreliable green energy projects. This is not just bad economic policy—it's a direct attack on Pennsylvania's energy independence.

- **Pennsylvania's conventional oil and gas operators are mostly small businesses, not multinational corporations.** We don't have the financial cushion to absorb new taxes. Many of us would be forced to shut down, killing local jobs and cutting off a key source of affordable, reliable energy.
- **Consumers will bear the cost:** Energy taxes don't just hurt producers—they hurt consumers. Higher production costs mean higher prices at the pump, higher home heating bills, and higher electricity costs for families and businesses.
- **Green energy is not self-sustaining:** If wind and solar were truly competitive, they wouldn't need endless government subsidies. Conventional energy, on the other hand, has powered this state and this nation for generations without special treatment.

A Smarter Path Forward

Instead of penalizing the energy sources that have reliably powered Pennsylvania for over a century, we should be focusing on:

1. Encouraging domestic energy production—Supporting conventional oil and gas operators to maintain energy independence and job growth.
2. Investing in grid reliability—Ensuring that our energy infrastructure prioritizes baseload power sources that keep the lights on 24/7.
3. Stopping wasteful green subsidies—If wind and solar cannot compete without massive handouts, they should not be the foundation of our energy policy.

Conclusion

Pennsylvania stands at an energy crossroads. We can choose a future of higher taxes, unreliable power, and economic hardship, or we can stand up for common sense—supporting the energy sources that work while rejecting policies that undermine our state's economic and energy security.

I urge this committee to reject Governor Shapiro's energy taxes and green energy mandates. Let's put Pennsylvanians first by keeping our energy reliable, affordable, and independent.

Thank you, and I welcome any questions.