

The banner features a dark blue background with a pattern of white stars and wavy lines. The text is centered and reads: PENNSYLVANIA, HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS, and COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Topic: 11-Bill Energy Package—Prioritizing Pennsylvania Energy Production

Composed on July 1, 2026

Key Points:

- Without new thermal generation production in the state coupled with record-high increases in demand—reliability and affordability of energy have been burdens for Pennsylvanians.
- With abundant natural resources, a skilled workforce, and companies willing to develop here in our Commonwealth, we should be tapping into these resources and acting now to ensure our leadership role in energy production.
- If we can clear the path from Harrisburg getting in the way of energy development, we can meet our energy needs of the future.
- Removing barriers to increase energy production will lower consumer prices, accelerate economic growth, create jobs, provide energy independence to enhance our energy security and grid reliability.

The Legislative Package Address the Following Issues:

- Regulatory certainty is critical in bringing more reliable power generation online to stabilize our grid and keep prices down.
- While we have achieved several key permit reforms (transparency measures and third-party reviews for certain permits), more work needs to be done to address the permitting process.
- The regulatory petition process has been allowed to be utilized in such a fashion that rather than addressing true concerns of environmental qualities, it has allowed outside radical groups to hijack development, requiring costly and timely reviews that take away from the core functions of environmental permitting and inspections. We need to ensure Pennsylvania is effectively

managing our resources and not wasting precious taxpayer dollars on agenda-driven petitions.

- Updates the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (AEPS), which picks winners and losers that increase prices on less reliable energy sources, so residents can save money by using reliable energy.
 - *Estimates suggest Pennsylvanians have paid \$3.3 billion on alternative energy mandate, with costs continuing to rise.*
- As electric prices continue to skyrocket, immediate steps can be taken to reduce this burden on all ratepayers—by eliminating the 6% Gross Receipts Tax on electricity.
- We must ensure the Commonwealth’s authority to allow all Pennsylvanians the opportunity to access our varied energy sources (natural gas, solar, wind, etc.).
- When companies are issued a permit, we need to make sure appeals work as they should, to consider challenges and not effectively kill job-creating projects that have already been issued the proper environmental protection permits.
- Too often, state agencies act in a manner that places unnecessary roadblocks in the way of business development and expansion. In turn, investment and business opportunities are lost to our neighboring states who partner with businesses to expand and develop in their state. We need to eliminate these obstacles from happening in Pennsylvania.
- As a leading energy exporter across the nation, Pennsylvania should have some of the lowest electric energy rates across the nation. Instead, our ratepayers are subsidizing new transmission projects that sends power to neighboring states. We need to prioritize Pennsylvania’s energy production for Pennsylvanians.
- Projects that create energy for our grid, supported by the community with secured permits issued by DEP, should not be infamously delayed and killed by outside appeals through the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB). Reasonable appeals should be part of the process, but unreasonable timelines do not support an effective role in government.

Legislative Package

- **TBD (Kail) Power Plant Certainty and Stability Act:**
Allows the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to designate energy generation projects as priority projects to receive environmental permits needed to operate for 25 years, unless federal law or regulations require modifications.
- **TBD (Davanzo) DEP Permit Ombudsman to Assist Applicants:**
Establishes a neutral entity within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to streamline the permitting review and approval process. Appointed by the General Assembly, the permit ombudsmen would serve as a resource to help permit applicants navigate the DEP permitting process, so that applicants would be sure to receive a timely answer to necessary questions to get their permit review moving along. Reports would be issued regarding permitting challenges and possible solutions at the agency. The entity would not have the authority to issue permits or force DEP to issue permits.
- **TBD (Fritz) Fixing DEP Regulatory Process:**
Eliminates the ability of radical organizations from using the regulatory petition process to hamper development and shut down key industries in Pennsylvania.
- **TBD (Kozak) Replacing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards:**
Changes the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) to the Reliable Energy Portfolio Standards Act, which will ensure our electric grid is powered by reliable energy sources and not less reliable alternative energy sources.
- **TBD (Kutz) Eliminating the Gross Receipts Tax on Energy Bills:**
Eliminates the 6% Gross Receipts Tax ratepayers across Pennsylvanian pay on their energy bills.
- **TBD (Marcell) Energy Choice:**
Preserves the Commonwealth's authority to set energy policies that allow Pennsylvanians access to a variety of energy sources.
- **TBD (E. Nelson) Environmental Permitting Appeal Preventing Blocking Permits:**
Eliminates the ability of the EHB to block development or progress that effectively kills a project that has already been issued proper permits that protect the environment.
- **TBD (Rowe) Tying State Regulatory and Permitting Standards to Federal Standards:**

Prohibits state agencies, by regulation, policy or guidance document, from requiring burdensome requirements where federal law or regulations already set forth environmental standards.

- **TBD (Verobish) Preventing Pennsylvanians From Subsidizing Other States:**

Establishes a grid maintenance fee on power that flows through the high-voltage transmission lines in Pennsylvania. Fees collected will be deposited into a fund utilized to provide local reliability credits for power used within our borders.

- **TBD (Armanini) Reforming Appeal Timelines:**

Limits the number of times a permit appeal can be pending before the EHB.

- **TBD (Kephart) Streamlining Environmental Permitting Appeals:**

Changes, within the permit appeal process, the standard of review by the EHB to an exclusive review of the record of decision raised during the permitting process and no longer a “de novo” review by the board.