



American Petroleum Institute

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania House Republican Policy Committee

August 27, 2026

Invited Party Testimony

Stephanie Catarino Wissman

Executive Director, API Pennsylvania

Chairman Rowe, Vice Chair Marcell, Rep. Verobish and members of the Pennsylvania House Republican Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding the challenges and opportunities facing Pennsylvania's energy sector.

The American Petroleum Institute (API) is the national trade association representing all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports more than 10 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our nearly 600 members produce, process, and distribute the majority of the nation's energy. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization and has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operations and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability. Collectively, the oil and gas industry contributes nearly \$1.8 trillion to U.S. GDP – close to 8 percent of the entire economy. We often call this the “first 8 percent,” because nothing else in the economy moves without energy.

In Pennsylvania, the natural gas and oil industry [supports](#) 400,000 jobs, while contributing a staggering \$77 billion in economic impact to the state.

Pennsylvania has become one of America's energy powerhouses, supplying affordable, reliable natural gas that helps power millions of homes and businesses in the Keystone State.

As electricity demand is climbing and global instability continues to threaten energy markets, Pennsylvania's ability to reliably produce abundant energy has never been more important.

Geopolitical conflicts, supply chain disruptions and rapidly growing electricity demand have reinforced a simple reality: America's energy system must be reliable, resilient and capable of meeting rising demand during periods of uncertainty. Success on that front begins with abundant domestic energy supply supported by modern infrastructure and policies that encourage long-term investment.

The challenge and opportunity before us

Pennsylvania is one of America's leading energy-producing states and is uniquely positioned to help meet growing energy demand. At the same time, businesses and households are facing rising energy costs as electricity demand increases. Projections indicate net annual electricity demand could increase nearly 30 percent by 2030.

The Commonwealth has the resources needed to help meet this challenge. Pennsylvania produces nearly one-fifth of the nation's natural gas, and natural gas currently generates about 60 percent of the state's electricity. The question is not whether Pennsylvania has the energy resources necessary to support growth, but whether policies will allow those resources to be developed and delivered efficiently and effectively.

Supply alone isn't enough

Energy-rich states like Pennsylvania provide little benefit if there is not enough infrastructure to deliver energy to consumers. Pipelines, transmission lines, export facilities like a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal and other critical infrastructure must be built in a timely and predictable manner.

Too often, however, projects that should take months often take years to navigate overlapping permitting requirements and lengthy legal challenges. Those delays could increase costs, discourage investment and ultimately threaten America's ability to deliver reliable, affordable energy.

In the PJM region, pipeline projects have been delayed or cancelled due to endless lawsuits and delays. These delays contributed to higher energy prices in certain places.

Simply put, we need more energy infrastructure – pipelines, natural gas storage, and power plants - in Pennsylvania and the broader PJM region to help meet accelerating demand and to deliver affordable energy.

The Transportation Equation

As we sit here today at Ward Transport & Logistics Corporation, we recognize the impact fuel costs have on the cost of doing business across Pennsylvania. Transportation is not simply another industry sector. It is the backbone of our economy and an essential link in every supply chain. When fuel costs rise, those increases are felt throughout the economy, affecting manufacturers, farmers, retailers, warehouses and ultimately consumers.

The most effective way to address long-term fuel affordability is not through short-term market intervention, but by ensuring adequate supplies of American-produced energy and the infrastructure needed to move it efficiently and effectively. Policies that encourage investment in natural gas and oil production, refining capacity, pipelines and related infrastructure help strengthen supply, improve reliability and reduce the volatility that could drive higher costs for businesses and families.

Legislative Solutions

The General Assembly has an opportunity to advance practical reforms that improve affordability by encouraging energy development, modernizing permitting and providing greater regulatory certainty. API appreciates House Republicans' focus on policies that help Pennsylvania build the infrastructure and energy projects needed to meet growing demand.

In particular, API supports the recent proposals that would:

- Improve permitting certainty and reduce project delays, including legislation to establish reasonable timelines for Environmental Hearing Board proceedings and measures to ensure permits cannot be indefinitely delayed through repetitive litigation. Predictable permitting processes are essential to attracting investment and delivering the infrastructure needed to meet growing energy demand.
- Prevent Pennsylvania from imposing regulatory requirements that exceed federal standards without legislative direction. Consistent and predictable regulatory frameworks provide businesses with greater certainty when making long-term investment decisions.
- Protect consumer energy choice by ensuring Pennsylvanians retain access to the fuels that best meet their needs. Households and businesses should have the ability to choose the energy sources that work best for their operations, budgets and reliability requirements.

Taken together, these proposals move Pennsylvania in the right direction. They focus on removing barriers to investment, accelerating responsible infrastructure development and strengthening the state's ability to produce and deliver affordable, reliable energy. At a time when demand is rising and affordability is a key concern for employers and families alike, these are the types of practical reforms that can help Pennsylvania maintain its competitive advantage as an energy-producing state.

Whether it's the cost of fueling a truck, powering a warehouse, operating a manufacturing line, or keeping the lights on in a small business, the underlying challenge is the same: affordability depends on reliable energy supply. Pennsylvania cannot lower costs if we make it harder to produce, transport and deliver the energy our economy depends on.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today, and API remains committed to working with Pennsylvania leaders on pragmatic solutions to meet rising demand.