



May 6, 2021

The Honorable Senator Chris Dush, Chair
Local Government Committee
Pennsylvania Senate
16 EW
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Senate Bill 275

Senator Dush:

The Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association (“PMEA”) is an association of boroughs across Pennsylvania who provide electric power to their residents, as authorized by Chapters 12 and 24A of the Borough Code, 8 Pa. C.S. § 24A01 *et seq.* and § 1202(62). PMEA has been following Senate Bill 275, which amends Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and generally prohibits municipal adoption of policies that restrict utility services (“SB 275”). This correspondence serves as PMEA’s written comments regarding SB 275.

PMEA appreciates and understands the value of prohibiting policies that might result in a restriction or limitation of utility services to utility customers; however, it is PMEA’s position that because its member boroughs are themselves the providers of electric service, SB 275 does not apply to them. In general, PMEA is not opposed to SB 275. Nevertheless, PMEA is submitting this correspondence to confirm that the language of SB 275 is not meant to and will not apply to or govern the operations and policies of a municipality – specifically a borough – that provides electric and other utility services to its residents.

PMEA recognizes that subsection (b) of SB 275 states that SB 275 does not affect a municipality’s authority to manage or operate publicly owned utilities. This language appears to indicate an understanding that – despite SB 275’s inapplicability to municipally provided utility services – an explicitly stated exemption for those municipalities, including PMEA’s members, who provide their own utility services to residents is appropriate. To the extent that SB 275 undergoes revisions, PMEA wishes to state its support of the exemption language of subsection (b) and expects that such language will remain in future iterations of SB 275.

PMEA is grateful for the opportunity to provide comments regarding SB 275. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Stonehill
PMEA President