



Labor & Management ▶ Building Our Region's Success



***Testimony by Jeff Nobers to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee regarding SB 275.***

***May 11, 2021***

Members of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Good Morning.  
Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on SB 275.

My name is Jeff Nobers, Executive Director of the Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania, and a sister organization Pittsburgh Works Together. The Guild is a labor-management organization comprised of 16 construction trade unions and nine contractor associations. Pittsburgh Works Together is an alliance of construction trade, utility and manufacturing unions, contractor associations, energy, manufacturing and utility companies and business and civic leaders. We support an inclusive vision of economic progress that embraces and respects both traditional legacy industries and emerging ones while ensuring a sustainable environment.

I am testifying today in support of SB 275 on behalf of the Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh Works and the more than 150,000 people employed or represented by our members.

SB 275 would have multiple positive impacts for energy consumers. For homeowners it is the freedom of choice as to what works best for their family and their budget. For a small business owner, it could be the difference between adding to or eliminating employees. For larger businesses, SB275 could provide the confidence to expand or locate in Pennsylvania or taking that investment elsewhere.

For our organizations SB275 is a critical building block for the future of organized labor and our energy, utility and manufacturing industries which translates to family sustaining jobs.

As we have recently seen in the Pittsburgh area relative to a planned \$1.5 billion investment by US Steel in its' Mon Valley Works localized, piecemeal legislative and regulatory policy can and has had a devastating detrimental effect on a significant investment, and most importantly the family sustaining middle class jobs that go with it.

We encourage you to support SB275 – we believe it is imperative to have a sound energy policy for our state with consistency in the laws, regulations, and policies to avoid uneven and unworkable systems such as those that were tragically evident in both California and Texas over the past year.

Allowing local authority – among some 2,500 municipalities - would negatively affect our energy industry, tens of thousands of jobs in the energy, utility, and construction industries, and no doubt result in significant cost increases for energy to run our homes, businesses, and industrial facilities. These increases would especially hurt elderly and low-income residents and certainly result in higher costs for all consumers in product and service costs.

Energy policy should be made at the state level through legislative process and approval to ensure uniformity across the commonwealth. By doing so we ensure the variety of choice that we enjoy today without penalizing any form of energy – or the ratepayers of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.