



30 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, #920 | Harrisburg, PA 17101  
1-866-389-5654 | Fax: 717-236-4078 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598  
aarp.org/pa | pa@aarp.org | twitter: @AARPPA  
facebook.com/AARPPA

May 14, 2021  
Sent Via E-Mail

Honorable Gene Yaw  
Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Honorable Carolyn Comitta  
Minority Chair  
Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Honorable Chris Dush  
Chairman  
Senate Local Government Committee

Honorable Maria Collett  
Minority Chair  
Senate Local Government Committee

RE: SB 275

Dear Chairpersons Yaw, Dush, Comitta, and Collett:

On behalf of our 1.8 million members and all Pennsylvanians 50 years of age and older, AARP Pennsylvania writes in support of Senate Bill (SB) 275, the energy choice legislation that allows customers the right to select the energy source of their choice to heat their home, cook their food, and heat their water by banning municipal restrictions or prohibitions.

Recognizing that your respective Committees held a joint hearing this week in order to hear from stakeholders on this important subject, AARP Pennsylvania desired to express to you our support for sustainable energy policies. Many of our members are on low or fixed incomes. They and many others have been financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. As such, we are laser-focused on energy issues related to affordability, reliability, and choice.

Moreover, we also question assumptions made by those that would force a customer to switch to a different fuel source. Without further study, how would we know the cost associated with upgrading the electric grid? Would the new electric load be served by what type of power plant? How much would conversion to the new fuel cost? Would the proposal strand gas investment raise gas rates?

As evidence by the diverse interest and opinions expressed during your joint hearing on this matter, AARP appreciates such robust dialogue and advocates for ensuring that customers can continue to use the fuel of their choice to keep energy bills affordable. SB 275 is similar to legislation or regulatory initiatives which AARP has supported in Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, and other states. We believe the time is now for the Commonwealth to pass similar legislation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (717) 237-6482 or [tosborne@aarp.org](mailto:tosborne@aarp.org).

Sincerely,

*Teresa Osborne*

Teresa Osborne  
AARP Pennsylvania  
Advocacy & Outreach Manager

