



TO: The Honorable Members of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

FROM: Kevin Sunday, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: June 26, 2023

RE: Oppose HB 170 and HB 1476 – De Facto Moratoriums on Drilling and Data Centers

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the largest, broad-based business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, representing nearly 10,000 member companies of all sizes from across all commercial and industrial sectors, I write to respectfully encourage you to **vote no on HB 170 and HB 1476**, which respectively executes a de facto moratorium on new gas development in Pennsylvania and which suspends permitting for power generation to support data centers. These bills are scheduled for a voting meeting in committee on Tuesday, June 27.

HB 170 massively expands the siting restrictions for new natural gas wells by prohibiting wellpads from being within 2,500 feet of waterways and wetlands and 5,000 feet from certain structures. This limitation would be a de facto moratorium on new shale gas development in most counties. Expanded domestic production and use of energy developed in Pennsylvania has led to lower costs for consumers, significant improvements in air quality, and increased investments in reshored manufacturing operations. These unnecessary restrictions will curtail the ability of Pennsylvania to leverage one of its most competitive assets: abundant energy resources. We urge a no vote.

HB 1476 impedes development of new data center construction as well as potentially suspending the permitting of additional power generation capacity to the grid. Data center development in the state holds great promise for Pennsylvania businesses to leverage advanced computing and machine learning to more efficiently manage logistics, design new materials and manufacturing processes, and innovate. Conflicting with state and federal statutes that direct agencies to permit facilities that meet relevant regulatory requirements, this bill suspends air quality permits for the power generation that in any way supports data centers and may, as drafted, present significant constitutional issues – namely, equal protection and the right to reasonably use private property. We urge a no vote.

For any questions, please contact Kevin Sunday, Director of Government Affairs, at ksunday@pachamber.org or 717 645-2071.