



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

FROM: Kevin Sunday, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: June 20, 2023

RE: Support SB 286 and SB 831 – Spill Reporting and Carbon Capture

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 encourage you to **vote yes on SB 286 and SB 831**, which respectively direct the Environmental Quality Board to develop a rulemaking to clarify when spills must be reported to DEP and which provides a comprehensive regulatory framework to deploy carbon capture and storage technology. These bills will be considered this week during a voting meeting.

SB 286 addresses the long-sought need by the regulated community for greater clarity as to when a spill must be reported to DEP. The agency has never adequately defined “standards of pollution” as the Clean Streams Law requires, and has instead used a subjective, post hoc framework that has not provided sufficient certainty as to when a spill should and should not be reported. This legislation directs DEP’s rulemaking board to define such standards, in keeping with Section 5 of the Clean Streams Law which requires DEP prevent pollution to waters of the Commonwealth that would render such waters “inimical or injurious to public health or objectionable to water supply purposes.” SB 286 will provide greater transparency and consistency to the public and regulated community on this important issue, and we urge your support.

We also encourage you to vote yes on SB 831, which establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the deployment of carbon capture technology. As we noted in testimony before the committee earlier this month, such a framework is vital to ensuring the deployment of billions of dollars in private capital, as well as potentially leverage federal infrastructure funding, to innovate in low-carbon manufacturing, agricultural and energy production projects. Carbon capture holds great potential to be added to this state’s diverse energy portfolio, which has helped Pennsylvania lead this country through every major energy transition in its history.

We urge your support for both of these bills, and we applaud this committee for making a priority permitting reform that will move Pennsylvania forward and expand opportunity to its residents.

For any questions, please contact Kevin Sunday, Director of Government Affairs, at [ksunday@pachamber.org](mailto:ksunday@pachamber.org) or 717 645-2071.