

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee

FROM: Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: April 7, 2025

RE: **PA Chamber memo: Oppose H.B. 109**

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (PA Chamber), representing nearly 10,000 member companies of all sizes from across all commercial and industrial sectors, I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 109.

House Bill 109 (Vitali) grants the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the authority to designate environmental justice areas in Pennsylvania. The bill requires applicants to submit a cumulative environmental impact report before issuing permits in these areas and mandates a more extensive public hearing process for these permits. Under this legislation, DEP can impose additional conditions, require mitigation measures, or even deny a permit based on the cumulative environmental impacts of a proposed project.

While we certainly appreciate the intent of this legislation, House Bill 109 creates ambiguity, regulatory uncertainty, and poses significant risks to economic growth, business investment, and Pennsylvania's overall competitiveness as follows:

- **Increases Regulatory Burdens** – The bill creates additional regulatory requirements that create unnecessary costs for businesses, which discourage investment and expansion, particularly in key industries that drive Pennsylvania's economy. The bill also lengthens and delays the permitting process at a time when Governor Shapiro and other policymakers continue to work to streamline the permitting process in Pennsylvania and increase our competitiveness.
- **Deter Job Creation and Investment** – As previously mentioned, instead of streamlining the process, the bill further complicates the permitting process in the Commonwealth. Businesses seek regulatory consistency and stability when determining where to invest, which leads to job creation and economic growth. House Bill 109 makes Pennsylvania less attractive to those businesses who are looking to invest or expand in the Commonwealth, putting us at a disadvantage over other competing states offering a simpler and more streamlined regulatory process.

- **Negative Impact on Energy and Manufacturing** – Pennsylvania’s energy sector is a key part of our economy. House Bill 109 could hinder energy and industrial development by adding layers to the regulatory process, delaying critical projects and increasing costs. This will not only impact energy projects themselves, but those who count on affordable, reliable energy, including manufacturing and logistics.

A regulatory environment that encourages, not discourages, business investment is vital to Pennsylvania’s economic growth, job creation, and energy development. House Bill 109 creates additional obstacles that compromise Pennsylvania’s competitive edge.

As such, we respectfully urge members of the House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee to oppose House Bill 109, and work toward policies that support economic growth and development while balancing necessary regulatory oversight. The PA Chamber stands ready to collaborate on solutions that establish Pennsylvania as a national leader in industry and innovation.

Please contact Amy Brinton via email at abrinton@pachamber.org or via phone at 717-720-5565.

[Click here](#) to check the PA Chamber Legislative Scorecard.

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