

DEP Quarterly

PA Chamber of Business and Industry
417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg PA
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

10:00 a.m.

Welcome Remarks

- Luke Bernstein, President and CEO, PA Chamber

Introductory Remarks

- Andy Bockis, Partner, Saul Ewing and PA Chamber's Environmental Policy Committee Chair

10:05 a.m.

Introduction of Speaker

- Amy Brinton, Director of Government Affairs, PA Chamber

DEP Update

- Ramez Ziadeh, Executive Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection

10:45 a.m.

Introduction of Speaker

- Charles Boruchowitz, Government Affairs Manager, Bentley Systems

PA PUC Update

- Kathryn L. Zerfuss, Commissioner, PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

11:25 a.m.

Introduction of Speaker

- Michelle M. Skjoldal, Member, Eckert Seamans

PJM Update

- Stephen Bennett, Senior Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs

12:00 p.m.

Conclude

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Luke Bernstein, President and CEO, PA Chamber of Business and Industry

A seasoned financial, government, and public policy professional, Luke came to the organization in 2022 with more than 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors.

Before leading the PA Chamber, Luke was most recently executive vice president, chief operations and technology officer at Orrstown Financial Services. He had served as Orrstown's corporate spokesperson since 2017.

He was previously senior vice president of external affairs at the Pennsylvania Bankers Association from 2015 to 2017 and deputy chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett from 2011 to 2015.

In addition to his executive leadership roles in the private sector and state government, Luke has experience working at the federal level, as a former appointed advisor in the Administration of President George W. Bush and as an aide in the U.S. Senate. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and policy studies from Dickinson College, where he also served as an adjunct professor.

Luke also completed the Duke Leadership Program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a very active member of his community, serving on numerous boards and as a youth sports coach.



Andy Bockis, Partner, Saul Ewing and PA Chamber's Environmental Policy Committee Chair

Andrew Bockis helps clients obtain and defend environmental permits for their projects. Industrial projects are subject to ever-changing rules and increased agency review time. Whether related to industrial warehouses or oil and gas facilities or renewable energy projects, many business leaders are frustrated with the uncertainty created by complex environmental regulation. The situation is magnified when there is public opposition to a project. Based on his prior experience as counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Andy helps clients in a variety of industries minimize

project delays and secure the permits they need. When projects are challenged, he helps companies defend their interests in court. He has litigated and defended environmental permitting decisions before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Third Circuit, D.C. Circuit, and in response to petitions for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court. Andy also helps clients navigate their interactions with regulatory agencies in order to avoid extra costs and lost time so that they can commence construction and operate with confidence. He is the immediate past Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Environmental and Energy Law Section, and co-editor of Pennsylvania Environmental Law and Practice, published by PBI Press. He is also Chair of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry's Environmental Council. Mr. Bockis is a partner in the Harrisburg office of Saul Ewing LLP and is Co-Chair of the Firm's Environmental Practice.



Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs, PA Chamber of Business and Industry

An experienced and widely respected government affairs and policy leader, Brinton will oversee the PA Chamber's advocacy in several key policy and regulatory areas, including energy and environmental issues.

Brinton brings a wealth of experience to the PA Chamber. As the government affairs manager for Duquesne Light, she coordinated and executed legislative strategy at the state and local levels. Brinton played a key role in drafting and advancing energy and utility-related legislation through the legislature, including renewable energy and Pennsylvania Broadband Authority proposals.

She previously served as executive director for the Pennsylvania House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and as a research analyst for the House Democratic Policy Committee and House Local Government Committee.

Brinton has advocated on behalf of Duquesne Light and the broader energy sector before lawmakers, serving as the primary representative for a PA Chamber member company that provides electricity distribution services to hundreds and thousands of residential and business customers in western Pennsylvania. She was also named in City & State's 2023 and 2024 Who's Who in Government Relations, and was previously elected as a local school board director.



Kathryn L. Zerfuss, Commissioner, PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Kathryn L. Zerfuss was nominated by Governor Tom Wolf on Sept. 20, 2022, and confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on October 19, 2022. Her term will expire on April 1, 2026.

With over two decades of experience in government affairs and public service, Commissioner Zerfuss has been a strong leader on regulatory and policy issues, focusing on education, workforce development, tax fairness, and energy and environmental concerns. As Commissioner, she upholds the mission of the PUC and has made workforce development a hallmark of her tenure on the Commission.

Commissioner Zerfuss's career has spanned many roles throughout Pennsylvania state government, including service as a Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs to Governor Tom Wolf, where she advanced the state's It's On Us initiative to combat sexual violence at postsecondary schools, secured Pennsylvania's first tax credit to help working families with childcare, and created the state's free school breakfast program that serves students in all public and private schools. Prior to that, she held positions in the PA House of Representatives, the PA Gaming Control Board, and the PA Departments of Revenue, Agriculture, and Transportation.

She is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), a non-profit organization dedicated to representing state public service commissions that regulate public utilities. Commissioner Zerfuss has been an active participant in NARUC initiatives, most recently appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity. She also serves on a national utility issues collaborative by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and NARUC addressing and finding solutions for critical challenges in the utility sector. She serves on the Committees on Energy Resources and the Environment, Gas, and the Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety. She is the co-vice chair of the NARUC-U.S. Department of Energy Task Force on Evolving Gas Infrastructure Planning. In this leadership role, Commissioner Zerfuss helps facilitate the discussion, review, and development of gas infrastructure planning as emerging technologies and decarbonization goals continue to evolve.

Commissioner Zerfuss is also a member of the Advisory Board of the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC), where she participates in committee discussions on critical energy and utility affordability issues.

Commissioner Zerfuss serves on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) where she advises the EPA on crucial environmental issues that impact agriculture and rural communities. Additionally, she is the PUC designee to the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board and the Agrivoltaic Farming Advisory Board.

Commissioner Zerfuss is only the ninth woman to serve on the PUC in its 87-year history. She currently serves with Vice Chair Kimberly Barrow making it only the fourth time two women commissioners have served concurrently.

Commissioner Zerfuss grew up in Tamaqua, Schuylkill County. She is an alumna of Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. She lives in Mechanicsburg and is married with three children.



Stephen Bennett, Senior Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection

Stephen Bennett is the PJM liaison for Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania. In this role, he interacts with state utility commissions, executive agencies and legislators on energy policy in the areas of RTO grid reliability, transmission planning, operations and wholesale markets. Prior to joining PJM, Mr. Bennett was the Managing Director at Energy Advocacy, LLC, a boutique consultancy focused on regulatory policy in the retail and wholesale energy markets. Mr. Bennett also held management roles in government affairs for both PPL EnergyPlus and Exelon. Mr. Bennett has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park.



Ramez Ziadeh, Department of Environmental Protection

Ramez Ziadeh, PE, started his career with DEP in January of 1994 in the Southwest Regional Office as a Civil Engineer in the Soils and Waterways Section of the Water Management Program. Since then, he served as the Permitting and Technical Services Chief in the Watershed Management Program in the Southcentral Region, Chief of the Project Inspection Division in the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Director of the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Executive Deputy Secretary of Programs and Acting Secretary during the last 7 months of Governor Wolf's term. Ramez is a licensed professional engineer in the States of Pennsylvania and California. He received his B.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993.

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