



PENNSYLVANIA
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION

September 11, 2007

The Honorable Dennis Yablonsky
Secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

Dear Secretary Yablonsky:

The Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, representing nearly 400 economic development professionals in the state, is pleased to join with the many others who have come forward to endorse the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative, which will be considered in a Special Session of the General Assembly commencing on September 17th.

We, in our capacity as the local delivery system for economic development in the Commonwealth understand better than most the need for Pennsylvania to maintain a competitive development climate. Energy independence will ensure continued growth and prosperity in every region of the state. If action is not taken soon to proactively address these issues, Pennsylvania will be at a competitive disadvantage with other states in not only growing but retaining family sustaining jobs for the 21st century.

We are particularly pleased to support Governor Rendell's proposal to initiate Clean Energy Economic Development Projects. This effort, as the Governor announced, to target state bond funds "dedicated for infrastructure improvements, construction, early project development costs and equipment purchases undertaken to attract private investment in energy related" projects will ultimately benefit every citizen and business in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has historically been in the forefront of utilizing public programs to leverage significant private investment. We are convinced that the investments proposed under your Energy Initiative will not only create significant, long lasting employment opportunities for all Pennsylvanians but will profoundly increase our competitive advantage over other states in the future.

We urge the General Assembly to take action on your proposals in order to make the Keystone state key to a stable energy policy for the 21st century.

Sincerely,

J. Patrick Killian
President

Robert J. Blair
1st Vice President

Linda Nitich
2nd Vice President

David Black
Secretary/Treasurer

Charles A. Leonard
Immediate Past President