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MEMO

To: Members of the Pennsylvania Senate

From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PA Municipal League

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 275 (PN 1163)

Date: October 27, 2021

On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, I am writing in *strong opposition* to Senate Bill 275 on the calendar for Third Consideration today.

This legislation is unnecessary in Pennsylvania and will very likely create confusion and expose municipalities to litigation because the language is very broad, subjective and unclear.

Although touted as an energy choice bill for Pennsylvanians and a way to ensure all residents of the Commonwealth are treated equally, it is not necessary. In Pennsylvania, the Public Utility Commission has jurisdiction over the regulation of utilities, therefore, local regulatory action of utilities is already prohibited. In other words, a municipality cannot restrict a source of energy, like natural gas, and to our knowledge, no municipality is looking to take such action.

Municipalities are, however, implementing environmental policies and working at varying degrees to address sustainability and resiliency in their communities through local actions that promote improved air quality, energy efficiency and energy costs. This legislation would expose municipalities with such community policies, incentives and actions to claims of discrimination by the energy industry. As written, the broad language in Senate Bill 275 leaves a wide gap for subjective interpretation of what is actually being prohibited, making it a dangerous bill for local governments and taxpayers alike.

Unfortunately, our efforts to narrow the bill's language for clarity and remove subjective terms, like "discrimination" and "has the effect of restricting or prohibiting" were unsuccessful.

As such, The League continues to strongly oppose the bill as written and respectfully requests a "NO" vote today for Senate Bill 275 on Third Consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.