

RESA: Pennsylvania's Small Businesses Support Competition in Electricity Services

The Truth About Competition

In 1996, forward-thinking policymakers put Pennsylvania on track to transition to a competitive market for electricity services. They passed the Electric Choice Act to end utility monopolies.

For a good reason: the monopolies had led to stagnation -- in customer service, in alternative energy development, in product innovation and in pricing.

Electricity buyers had no choices...no option to buy their power at lower-use, lower-cost times of the day...no smart meters or other new technologies...and no relief in sight.

But now that the transition to a competitive market is becoming a reality, some people are resisting progress and advocating a return to the bad old days of monopolies and heavy electric regulation.

Without even giving competition a real chance.

Why Pennsylvania's Small Businesses Support Electric Competition

Over time, electric competition will allow consumers to shop and compare, which will lead to price competition, product innovation, alternative energy development and better customer service.

But, big business is manufacturing a crisis, saying the move to competition will lead to skyrocketing costs and cause industries to leave Pennsylvania.

When in reality, they hope to derail the Electric Choice Act and get special deals for themselves – deals that other electricity buyers, including residential customers and small business customers, will have to subsidize.

What Small Businesses are Saying...

“Only a truly competitive retail energy marketplace will result in an improved climate for business development and job growth!”

– SMC Business Councils

“The long-term contracts touted by Pennsylvania's largest industrial users as a way to reduce their electricity costs actually would force small businesses and residential electricity to subsidize the lower rates paid by these large industrials. As a result, any benefits of electric competition for residential customers and small businesses would be lost.”

– National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
letter to the Pennsylvania Legislature

“Small businesses generate the lion's share of new jobs and economic growth. The Electricity Choice Act has provided some benefit to small business electricity consumers, but there is a long way to go before the law's full promise is realized. Reversing course now would impede job creation and future economic growth.”

– SMC Business Councils

Electric Competition...it's working for Pennsylvania



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Direct Energy Services
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