



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

Testimony of the BlueGreen Alliance before the House Commerce Committee,

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Presented by Khari Mosely

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KHARI MOSLEY TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 234

Good morning my name is Khari Mosley and I am the BlueGreen Alliance's Regional Program Manager for Pennsylvania.

Thank you Chairman Ellis, Democratic Chairman Thomas, and members of the Commerce Committee for holding this hearing on SB 234 and inviting the Blue Green Alliance to share our testimony today.

The BlueGreen Alliance unites some of America's largest unions and most influential environmental organization to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy. We bring labor union members and environmentalists together around three key areas here in Pennsylvania:

First, innovating, building and installing the clean economy—clean energy, energy efficiency, safe chemicals, and clean vehicles—which protects the environment, creates quality jobs, and ensures the health of workers and the environment.

Second, repairing Pennsylvania's infrastructure to create quality jobs, protect the health of workers and communities, reduce the emissions driving climate change, and build stronger, more resilient systems for the future.

And finally, supporting fair trade. We can only achieve a thriving and fair clean economy if our international trade and climate agreements raise standards for workers, consumers, and the environment.

I am pleased to be here today in support of Senate Bill 234. It represents a great opportunity to create and sustain quality jobs in our state by providing businesses low-cost financing to update their property to be more energy efficient and to improve their properties with clean energy technology.

Nationally, at the end of 2016, investment in PACE projects surpassed \$300 million. More than half of that financing was used for energy efficiency upgrades and the majority of the projects were in the office, retail, and industrial sectors.

That investment means good jobs.

This bill is an opportunity for our state to take leadership in creating good jobs,

boosting energy and water efficiency efforts in commercial and industrial buildings, and helping to ensure that businesses can remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. The legislation will provide new financing opportunities for small businesses to make cost saving energy efficient investments.

Right now, Pennsylvania is an island. PACE is already used in many other states, including our neighbors Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. Passing SB 234 would help us compete with those states to retain and attract businesses.

Commercial PACE is a voluntary program. It simply provides the mechanism that would enable municipalities or counties to work with private lenders to aid the business community in attaining low-cost financing to do these improvements. And, passing SB 234 would provide both local communities and the business communities the choice as to whether or not they would tap into this resource.

PACE funding is long-term and can be used for all aspects of the project, including design and project development.

It is important that SB 234 focuses solely on Commercial PACE at this time. Commercial PACE projects can employ a large workforce of skilled tradesmen and women that single-family residential projects cannot due to scale. Residential PACE also presents a number of challenges due the various concerns by consumer protection advocates, the banking community and realtors. The broad based bi-partisan coalition of business leaders, organized labor, environmentalists and consumer advocates behind this bill would fall apart if R-PACE is included in SB 234.

I urge the committee to pass SB 234. This is a bill that can and will create and sustain good jobs in communities, gives communities and businesses the choice and opportunity to participate in the program, and will help reduce energy and water use and increase the use of clean energy technology in our state. It is incumbent on all of us to work together to build a better future for generations to come. SB 234 is an opportunity for us to do just that.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate your interest in this important issue.