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Wanner's Pride-N-Joy Farm LLC
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3061

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

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AUG 02 2014

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

Att: Secretary
RE: Docket L-2014-2404361
Proposed Net Metering Changes

Dear Commissioners:

Wanner's Pride-N-Joy Farm began looking at anaerobic digestion of manure to energy in 2002 as we started planning to expand our dairy herd. We are located in Eastern Lancaster County of PA and are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our goal was to be environment and neighbor friendly. By using an anaerobic digester we could harvest biogas from our manure and convert it to energy to power our farm and reduce CO2 and odor emissions at the same time. Our initial cost analysis did not allow us to proceed due to the high cost of the equipment and the expected pay back. After Pennsylvania passed net metering legislation and Utilities were required to purchase our excess electricity at the market rate we were able to proceed. We were able to exceed our emissions goals and also reduce the phosphorus levels in the manure we apply to our cropland.

Our initial investment was \$1,000,000 and we have maintenance costs averaging \$15,000 per year. This is offset by reduced energy purchases and payments for excess production of an average of \$65,000 per year. We have also traded carbon credits to help pay the costs. In the big picture, we are nowhere near and energy company regulated by the PUC; nor is that our goal. To reduce the amount that a utility would pay or place a cap on the amount that would be purchased would create a hardship on the return on investment for those of us who have made a large investment to be environmentally responsible. My family has a dairy business, not an energy company; we are trying to make the finances of environmental compliance and stewardship work so we can remain in dairy. We are dependent on the profit of the renewable energy we produce from manure to do that and we do not understand why the PUC would want to limit in any way how much renewable energy is produced in any form let alone on farms. If 18% renewable energy by 2021 is a good goal why not raise the bar to 20% or 25%?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please consider all the consequences of these proposed changes on farm families throughout Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,



Alfred Wanner, Jr.