



PRESS RELEASE

PA NECA Lauds Bipartisan Leadership on PACE Economic Development Initiative

S.B. 234

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The Western PA and Penn-Del-Jersey Chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) have joined together to applaud and support the new bipartisan leadership on the initiative to authorize commercial property-assessed clean energy (PACE) programs in Pennsylvania.

PACE programs, which have thus far been authorized in 33 states and the District of Columbia, allow business owners, contractors, and private investors to arrange long-term loans for energy efficiency or clean energy upgrades that are repaid through local property taxes. PACE is a market-driven financing solution that requires no use of public funds.

The Pennsylvania NECA chapters have been working together for over a year to support legislation introduced by Senator John Blake (D-Lackawanna), previously known as the PennSTAR—Sustainable Technology Assistance for Retrofits—Act, which would authorize municipalities and counties to voluntarily establish PACE financing programs.

Over the course of the legislative session, Senator Guy Reschenthaler (R-Allegheny) became increasingly interested in the potential economic benefits of PACE financing. After offering some improvements to the bill, Senator Reschenthaler became a co-prime sponsor of the newly fine-tuned legislation, which will be known as SB 234 in the 2017-2018 legislative session.

“We’re looking forward to a bipartisan push from both the Eastern and Western sides of the state to make commercial PACE a reality in PA,” commented Western PA NECA Executive Director Chad Jones.

“PACE will be a massive opportunity for economic development throughout the state. Our NECA member contractors stand ready to implement energy efficiency and clean energy technologies in commercial properties that can sorely use these updates,” said Jeff Scarpello, Executive Director of the Penn-Del-Jersey NECA Chapter.

To learn more about PACE financing and programs across the country, visit PACENation.us.