



# PRESS RELEASE

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## PA NECA Supports PACE Legislation—A Sustainable Technology Financing Solution— Introduced This Week

### S.B. 1069

January 29, 2016

PITTSBURGH—Many commercial, industrial, and residential buildings throughout Western Pennsylvania would benefit from comprehensive energy upgrades to replace out-of-date and inefficient lighting, water, heating, and other systems. However, the upfront cost of these projects is often prohibitive for building owners and developers, despite the long-term cost savings and decreased energy usage.

In an effort to solve the financing dilemma that prevents many of these widely-beneficial projects from getting off the ground for existing structures and new construction, State Senator John Blake (D-Lackawanna) introduced [S.B. 1069, the PennSTAR—Sustainable Technology Assistance for Retrofits—Act](#). The bill lays the groundwork for counties and municipalities to create Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs.

PACE financing allows business owners, contractors, and private investors to arrange long-term loans that are repaid through the property taxes on a building, allowing for limited or no upfront cost for the business. The inclusion of loan payments in the building's property taxes relegates responsibility of payment to the current owner of the building for the duration of the loan.

The property tax mechanism, which is administered by local governments, is attractive to the business owner, who is not forced to tie up valuable capital or be bound to a property for an extended period, as well as the investor, who can count on regular payments towards the loan. The all-around incentives of the PACE program have made it a popular plan that has been authorized in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

Western PA NECA, in conjunction with the Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter, supports this legislation as an important step forward in providing tools that will spur development and conserve energy around the state. In October, the PA NECA chapters sent a joint letter to State Representatives and Senators applauding Senator Blake's efforts and urging legislators to pass the bill as expediently as possible.

## About Western Pennsylvania NECA



FOR OVER 65 YEARS, THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF NECA HAS PROVIDED ITS MEMBERS WITH AN EFFECTIVE AGENCY THROUGH WHICH TO EXPRESS THEIR COLLECTIVE VOICE ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. TODAY THE CHAPTER REPRESENTS QUALIFIED, RELIABLE, AND EXPERIENCED CONTRACTORS THROUGHOUT WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. WE REPRESENT THE VERY BEST THE ELECTRICAL WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

THIS CHAPTER SERVES ITS MEMBERS THROUGH LABOR RELATIONS, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, SAFETY TRAINING, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS, CONVENTION/ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY EXPOSITION, TECHNICAL SERVICES AND WHAT WE FEEL IS AN OVERALL CREATION OF A BETTER BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

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**OUR PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE SUPERIOR SERVICE TO THE BEST UNION ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**  
**OUR MISSION: ENHANCE, PROMOTE, AND REPRESENT THE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**