

DCED BUDGET HEARING WRAP

Tuesday, February 18, 2025



General Overview:

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Rick Siger, along with other staff from DCED, testified before the House Appropriations Committee today. House Republicans focused their questions on government efficiency and unleashing Pennsylvania's energy industry.

Key Takeaways:

- House Republicans have always supported DCED's overall mission to grow our economy; however, Governor Shapiro's FY 2025-26 budget proposal notably fails to include a strategy to grow Pennsylvania's energy sector.
 - Energy provides Pennsylvania's greatest potential for economic growth. Effectively harnessing these resources can create thousands of jobs in energy production while providing affordable power for residents, businesses and manufacturers, paving the way for a prosperous future.
- The governor's proposal, which includes a minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour, has raised significant concerns among committee members, particularly in relation to its potential impact on small businesses. This proposal, if implemented, could lead to job losses and increased overhead, posing a serious threat to many employers.
- Ensuring broadband access in rural Pennsylvania is a crucial federal, state, and local government initiative. However, members are concerned that the Shapiro Administration's refusal to appropriately classify workers in broadband installation will result in significant delays and cost overruns, potentially denying rural communities access to the critical economic and educational opportunities that broadband provides.

Notable Q&A:



Rep. Zachary Mako questions DCED Sec. Siger on how DCED will ensure economic investment extends beyond Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Rep. Josh Kail points out how economic growth is inhibited by the Shapiro Administration's failure to leave the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.



Rep. Charity Krupa questions DCED Sec. Siger on worker misclassification resulting in higher costs and fewer projects completed for rural broadband.