



## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

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# **ACCES Representative Testifies on Consumer Education Opportunities Before Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 21, 2012)** – Michael Meath testified on behalf of the Pennsylvania Energy Marketers Coalition and the American Coalition of Competition Energy Suppliers (“ACCES”) at an *en banc* hearing of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) today. The Commission is currently engaged in a review of the retail electricity market in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is considering the role of consumer education in advancing electricity competition and retail choice in the state.

During his testimony, Meath encouraged the Commission, Staff, and other stakeholders to consider the resources that ACCES has already developed for its national consumer education effort and how these tools and content could be adapted for use in Pennsylvania.

“We believe ACCES’s consumer education campaign – which is being fully funded through a substantial financial commitment by a group of competitive suppliers – can easily go hand-in-hand with the other initiatives and component ideas which were presented at the hearing,” said Meath. “ACCES has pledged its willingness to offer its existing and future content to the Pennsylvania consumer education effort.”

In addition to pledging support for a Commission-led consumer education effort on electricity choice, Meath urged the Commission to consider widening the scope of the campaign to include natural gas choice as well. “Combining education efforts to include both electricity and natural gas will be a more practical and efficient use of resources. It will also avoid customer confusion that could stem from an electricity-only effort,” Meath said. “Some consumers may mistakenly believe they no longer have a choice when it comes to natural gas.”

ACCES, intentionally pronounced like the word *access*, is a group of retail natural gas and electricity suppliers who work to provide clear and accurate information about the benefits of competition, empowering consumers to make informed decisions that best meet their individual needs when purchasing energy from competitive suppliers. More information about ACCES and competitive energy choice can be found at [www.CompetitiveEnergy.org](http://www.CompetitiveEnergy.org).

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