

# CEEPC Legislative Update

November 16, 2011

## *Federal*

<b>HR 2599 PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011</b>
<b>Status:</b> August 22 referred to the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity
<b>Summary:</b> Would rescind Federal Housing Finance Authority guidance and affirm the validity of PACE financing; define PACE financing as an “assessment,” not a “loan.”; limit or eliminate risks to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by establishing national program standards such as underwriting criteria, consumer protections, qualifying improvements, and qualifying contractors. CEEPC’s comment letter supported this bill.
<sup>NEW</sup> <b>HR 3307 American Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit Extension Act of 2011</b>
<b>Status:</b> November 2 referred to House Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Summary:</b> Would give a four-year extension to an existing production tax credit for wind, biomass, geothermal, small irrigation, landfill gas, trash, and some hydropower.
<b>S 652 Building and Upgrading Infrastructure for Long-Term Development</b>
<b>Status:</b> March 17 Referred to Committee on Finance
<b>Summary:</b> Would establish the American Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA) to provide direct loans and loan guarantees to facilitate transportation, water, or energy infrastructure projects. Requires infrastructure projects assisted under this Act to have costs of at least \$100 million (\$25 million for rural infrastructure projects). CEEPC’s comment letter asked that district/thermal energy solutions qualify by lowering the eligibility threshold.
<b>S 1108 10 Million Solar Roofs Act of 2011</b>
<b>Status:</b> July 12 Hearing in Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
<b>Summary:</b> Would create a competitive grant program with \$50 million in funds for each fiscal year 2012 - 2016 to make solar permitting more efficient. The program’s ultimate goal is to help install solar energy systems on at least 10 million properties by the end of 2020. CEEPC’s comment letter supported the bill and suggested adding other clean energy technologies.
<sup>NEW</sup> <b>S1737 Sensible Accounting to Value Energy (SAVE) Act</b>
<b>Status:</b> October 19 Introduced and referred to Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
<b>Summary:</b> Would improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting used by Federal mortgage agencies by ensuring that energy costs are included in the underwriting process, reducing energy consumed by homes and facilitating the creation of energy efficiency retrofit and construction jobs.

## *State*

<b>Maryland Public Service Commission Utility Case Nos. 9153-9157</b>
<b>Status:</b> Utilities have filed energy efficiency plans with the Maryland Public Service Commission for the 2012 to 2014 period for the EmPower Maryland program.
<b>Summary:</b> Potomac Edison would offer incentives for LEDs for municipalities that own and operate their lights; Pepco and Delmarva would replace mercury vapor lights with high pressure sodium lights; BGE and SMECO did not include street lighting programs. CEEPC’s comment letter recommended LED and induction street lights programs in all utility plans.

**Maryland:** Hearings have been held in the House Committee on Economic Matters and Senate Committee on Finance regarding offshore wind energy.