



Advocacy Policy

Introduction

The Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) is the statewide association of local, state, corporate and non-profit economic development professionals. PEDA's mission is to promote sound economic development policies, provide leading edge economic development education, and nurture an effective statewide economic development network to foster the economic health of the Commonwealth.

Periodically, PEDA is asked to endorse or support public policy positions. PEDA may choose to take formal policy positions on issues directly related to economic development that would affect PEDA's core missions or the overall ability of its members to perform economic development functions in their communities. Any member of PEDA in good standing can ask the organization to take a position on an issue, which should be considered for support. When asked, PEDA must weigh the interests of all members, public, private and non-profit sectors, and go through a formal process before it can take a formal position on any issue.

The Advocacy Committee of PEDA works closely with other standing committees such as the Permitting and Regulatory Reform (PARR) Committee, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Committee and others. The Advocacy Committee helps to support the goals of all PEDA committees on any current and new initiative. The Advocacy Committee also continually works to expand and improve PEDA's relationship with the Commonwealth's legislative leaders and build upon the excellent working relationship with the Commonwealth's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in Harrisburg.

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Advocacy Process

Any member in good standing may ask PEDDA to take a position on an issue by making a formal, written request to the President.

The written request should be in the form of a letter on official organization letterhead signed by an authorized representative.

The letter must contain a specific and detailed request of the position that the organization wants PEDDA to take on a public policy issue, information supporting the request, specific reasons for the position and any relevant additional information that could help PEDDA with the decision.

The letter needs to explain how the issue position supports the mission of PEDDA and directly relates to economic development.

The President will review the issue, taking action to research the issue and provide detailed information to the Advocacy Committee.

Members of the Advocacy Committee will review the request at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

If two thirds of the Advocacy Committee members present vote to support the position requested in the letter, the committee Chairperson will present the recommendation to PEDDA's Executive Committee.

The Advocacy Committee Chairperson will carry the information and the result of the vote to the PEDDA Executive Committee at the next scheduled meeting for consideration.

The Executive Committee will consider the issue and position recommended by the Advocacy Committee, also taking into account the recommendations and guidance from the President.

If two thirds of the Executive Committee members vote to take a position on an issue, the committee Chairperson will present the recommendation to the full PEDDA Board of Directors.

The Advocacy Committee Chairperson will carry the information and result of the vote to the PEDDA Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting for consideration.

The PEDDA Board of Directors will consider the issue and position recommended by the Executive Committee, also taking into account the recommendations and guidance from the President.

If two thirds of the voting members of the PEDDA Board of Directors vote to take a position on the issue, the President will prepare correspondence to the appropriate legislators and membership detailing PEDDA's position.

If the PEDDA Board of Directors does not achieve a two thirds vote on a specific position, the organization will officially have no position on the issue.

Adopted by PEDDA Advocacy Committee, Thursday, 2/21/13

Adopted by PEDDA Executive Committee, Monday, 2/25/13

Adopted by PEDDA Board of Directors, Monday, 4/29/13