## PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3265

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Meeting – March 12, 2009 C-0005

## JOINT MOTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN TYRONE J. CHRISTY <u>AND</u> <u>COMMISSIONER WAYNE E. GARDNER</u>

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will, among other things, provide funding and incentives to improve the infrastructure of the United States. Governor Edward G. Rendell has sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting use of the funds provided by the Act. In addition the Governor has announced a new Web site <u>www.recovery.pa.gov</u> providing information about the stimulus plan. Potentially, the Commonwealth could be the recipient of billions of dollars from the Act. Pennsylvania must take advantage of this opportunity.

We also are keenly interested in ensuring that the funding available for our utility infrastructure and related matters is identified, aggressively pursued, and secured.

Funding is available to improve electric delivery and reliability, energy efficiency, renewable energy, telecommunications broadband deployment, clean water, waste water, and railroads. With that said, the Commission is actively involved in looking at available monies that may benefit Pennsylvania's public utilities. We will continue to work diligently with the administration to ensure that Pennsylvania receives the full benefit from the economic stimulus plan.

We also are interested in programs that could benefit the state's utility customers that fall outside of our direct purview but are consistent with our overall mission. Programs such as weatherization, smart grid applications, advanced battery technologies, railroad security and infrastructure and others are among those that could help Pennsylvania utility consumers.

We are committed to making certain the utility infrastructure in the Commonwealth receives the maximum benefits afforded by the Act.

We are confident that the utilities under the Commission's jurisdiction and affected stakeholders are actively involved in determining what monies they may qualify for and how they may obtain the maximum benefit from this Act. To the extent that the utilities and stakeholders need formal action or other support from the Commission, we encourage them to seek our assistance. We stand at the ready to offer reinforcement to Pennsylvania utilities and stakeholders through activities such as writing letters of support for those seeking funds that will have a positive affect on improving our utility infrastructure. By our action today, we are formalizing that commitment.

## **THEREFORE, I MOVE:**

1) That a Secretarial Letter, consistent with this Motion, be served on all jurisdictional electric distribution companies, natural gas delivery distribution companies, telecommunication companies, water companies, water companies and railroad companies.

2) That the Secretarial Letter be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* to inform other stakeholders, including private corporations, of the Commission's endeavors regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

3) That the Office of Special Assistants prepare the appropriate Secretarial Letter.

DATE

TYRONE J. CHRISTY, VICE CHAIRMAN

## WAYNE E. GARDNER, COMMISSIONER