

AEE Testimony against AZ **HB2248 /SB1175**; Jan. 26-27, 2021
Shelby Stults, Principal, Advanced Energy Economy

Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee Members. My name is Shelby Stults, thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak regarding the proposed legislation of bill **HB2248 /SB1175** on behalf of Advanced Energy Economy. Advanced Energy Economy is an association of businesses which provide a variety of technologies and services, such as solar, wind, storage, electric vehicles, advanced metering infrastructure, and more. We also manage the Advanced Energy Buyers Group, representing large electricity consumers interested in the purchase of advanced energy to meet corporate clean energy and sustainability goals.

These businesses comprise the advanced energy industry in Arizona--a sector that is key to the prolonged growth and stability of Arizona's economy. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, advanced energy employed over 69,000 workers in Arizona. These workers include solar installers, alternative fuel producers, manufacturing employees, and electric car engineers, and are the backbone of a sector that in 2019 was experiencing 3.5% job growth per year—higher than the state average of 2.8%.

These jobs--and this industry needs regulatory and business certainty. Unfortunately, this legislation creates additional bureaucracy and unclear process by tasking the Legislature with making energy generation decisions for the state. This job killer places more than 21,000 Arizona jobs in advanced energy generation, directly at risk. This will also eliminate Arizona as an option for large corporate investment from companies interested in the state's currently low-corporate tax rate and high potential for proliferation of clean energy on the grid. This means companies who are currently employing thousands in the state or looking to expand will consider other competitive states in the southwest for additional development and investment.

In regard to rising rates for customers, states with vertically integrated utilities have shown that utilities who have moved to retire uneconomic coal plants in favor of renewable energy resources have saved their customers millions of dollars. States like Indiana, Colorado, and Minnesota have utilities that have demonstrated compliance with energy standards in their filed integrated resource

plans while saving customers money. These states all have far less productive clean energy resources than the great state of Arizona.

I urge you to protect Arizona jobs, Arizona businesses, and investment in the Arizona economy and vote against this bill.