

Stephen Hoffman

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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net;
 regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com;
 gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Rep. Joe Webster
PA House of Representatives - 150th District (asmith@pahouse.net)
2121 W. Main Street
West Norriton, PA 19403 US

Comments entered:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

This multistate, bipartisan initiative is the very definition of a win-win policy. The classic tension in environmental policy is the perceived tradeoff between a clean environment and a crippled economy – but that is an outdated view that ignores the enormous economic upside of a cleaner state, region, country, and world.

First, poor air quality carries huge costs – DEP estimates that hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of hospital visits every year are traceable to particulates and pollution in our air, to say nothing of the long-term indirect medical costs associated asthma, emphysema, heart disease, cancer, stroke, mental health, and dozens of other conditions. The human cost is heartbreaking, and the economic cost is staggering. To quote Ben Franklin, “a penny saved is a penny earned.”

Second, green energy produces jobs in addition to saving dollars and lives. In Pennsylvania alone, tens of thousands of new jobs that don't rely on shrinking extractive industries have the potential to pump billions of dollars into our communities. And the energy produced is cheaper for our commonwealth to purchase: electricity prices have fallen in RGGI states, even as they've

risen in the rest of the country.

Last, this is simply the right thing to do for our children and our future. Our own constitution places on us the responsibility to care for our natural resources, and to do so is an obligation we owe to the public and our posterity.

I urge you to approve this plan, and empower us to lead as good stewards of the environment and well-being of our commonwealth.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov