



BRIAN SIMS, MEMBER
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Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for Pennsylvania to adopt the proposed CO2 Budget Trading Program during the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's public comment period. Climate change is an urgent crisis that demands immediate action and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is an important step in the transition towards clean energy.

In just over a century, Pennsylvania has warmed by 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, and the speed of this temperature increase is accelerating. Hurricanes along the gulf coast, wildfires in the west, and floods across the world have demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that the climate is changing. We have a responsibility to the planet and to the health and safety of Pennsylvanians to stop the further degradation of our environment. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative has proven to be effective in other states. Member states have raised over \$2.5 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and RGGI prompted the decline of electricity prices in participating states by 5.7% while other states have experienced an electricity price increase of 8.6%.

Joining RGGI would prevent 30,000 hospital visits in Pennsylvania by significantly reducing harmful air pollution, and carbon emissions would decline by 188 million tons by 2030. Beyond the positive outcomes for our health, this effort would lead to an increase of 27,000 jobs in Pennsylvania. Lessening the burden on our health care system and job creation and are vital to the Commonwealth's recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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Pennsylvania is the state with the fourth highest rate of greenhouse gas emissions and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is an opportunity to change our future for the better. This effort will create jobs, fund environmental programs, and safeguard the health of Pennsylvanians.

I strongly encourage you to approve the plan for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sims". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Sims" clearly distinguishable.

State Representative Brian Sims
Member 182nd District