

3RD DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
SHARIF STREET
SENATE BOX 203003
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3003
717-787-6735
FAX: 717-772-0581

1621 W. JEFFERSON STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19121
215-227-6161
FAX: 215-560-1316

4458 A GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140
215-457-5200
FAX: 215-457-5206



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES
BANKING & INSURANCE
MINORITY AFFAIRS
AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
URBAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING
EMAIL: ssstreet@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.SenatorSharifStreet.com
FACEBOOK: [SenatorSharifStreet](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorSharifStreet)
TWITTER: [@SenSharifStreet](https://twitter.com/SenSharifStreet)



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

I am writing to submit my comments during PA-DEP's public comment period in support of Pennsylvania joining RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The impacts of the climate crisis are becoming clearer every day. From higher temperatures and deadlier hurricanes to the wildfires on the West Coast, we have been experiencing more extreme weather patterns at a more frequent rate. Pennsylvania is currently the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation and has a responsibility to be a national leader in implementing policy decisions that help lead the fight against climate change.

RGGI is an integral step in the right direction. Since its inception, RGGI has become the most successful state-level program in the nation surrounding the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. In participating RGGI states, carbon pollution has decreased by 47% which far outpaces the rest of the country. If Pennsylvania joins RGGI, projections show carbon emissions in the Commonwealth are expected to decrease by 188 million tons by 2030, equal to take more than 36 million cars off the road.

Not only does reducing carbon emissions help our environment, it also has tremendous health benefits. RGGI states have significantly fewer premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses, and Pennsylvanians, too, can and should reap the rewards of lower air pollution. In fact, studies show that by joining RGGI, Pennsylvania could prevent hundreds of premature deaths and avoid up to 30,000 hospital visits due to respiratory related illnesses. In a time when public health has taken center focus for most Pennsylvanians and the country, doing everything we can to keep our citizens healthy and safe should be a top priority for the Commonwealth.

RGGI is also projected to bring significant economic benefits to Pennsylvania, with nearly \$2 billion being injected into the state's economy over the next decade and 27,000 new jobs added throughout Pennsylvania. In addition, studies have shown that when implemented correctly, RGGI will save consumers money. There has been a decrease of roughly 5.7% in electricity prices throughout current RGGI states. In contrast, prices in the rest of the country have increased by 8.6% in the same time. This decrease in electricity prices will not only benefit my constituents, but Pennsylvanians as a whole.

By joining RGGI, Pennsylvania will drive down climate and air pollution, inject much-needed money into our state's economy, and create thousands of good paying jobs right here in the Commonwealth.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Street', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sharif T. Street
Senator, Third District