



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 12:02 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-jflanaga@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:

Michael Schlossberg  
 PA House of Representatives (RepSchlossberg@pahouse.net)  
 2030 W Tilghman St Suite 100  
 Allentown, PA 18104 US

Comments entered:

Climate change is without a doubt, one of the critical issues facing my generation. It touches on the moral and economic challenges in so many communities. Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives (RGGI) would play a significant role in helping to strengthen our economy during this critical time of recovery while addressing matters of environmental justice which continue to plague our nation.

The RGGI is perhaps the most responsible and effective manner to address climate change. It reflects an understanding of regional impact, drawing together a critical mass of states to effectively reduce carbon pollution. Indeed, the nine states of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions comprising the RGGI produced 19.7% less carbon pollution in the first six months of 2019 than in 2018 while generating a net \$4B in economic benefits for their economies. The initiative also reflects fairness, forcing those who pollute to pay the costs of pollution, while rewarding those who do not pollute with the monetary rewards associated with the sound practices. Finally, the RGGI capitalizes on the emergency green economy, an economic asset which reflects small business growth, the spirit of entrepreneurship and family sustaining jobs. The RGGI often gets tagged as a pie-in-the-sky environmental protection. While that is not bad thing, it ignores the economic benefits that we would realize during one of the most challenging economic recoveries our nation has ever faced. While the threat to human life should be sufficient to spur action, for some people, the almighty dollar might be the only way they see the

benefit of these efforts. Regardless of motivation, I will take it.

As we work to address the economic opportunities Pennsylvania's participation in the RGGI would present, we cannot overlook the reality that climate change is certainly a matter of environmental justice effecting communities of color, immigrants, low-income communities, and people for whom English is not their native language. Climate change produces not only heat, which complicates health conditions, but also:

- spurs extreme weather events which cause injury, illness and death due to insufficient and aged public infrastructure.
- reduces air quality, compounding insufficient access to quality medical care and leading to chronic illnesses and diseases that shorten or end human life.
- pollutes the surrounding environment, driving up illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure and asthma.

In fully understanding the link between climate change and environmental justice, we need to acknowledge the communities most at-risk are communities of color which have faced centuries of systemic racism. Failure to address climate change is an admission that systemic racism will endure as public health outcomes, compromised water supplies, extreme weather events and insufficient public infrastructure continue to deteriorate.

I am grateful for Governor Wolf's and Secretary McDonnell's leadership in drawing Pennsylvania into the RGGI. This decision reflects a commitment to greater prosperity for Pennsylvania and helps to protect the right to clean air and clean water laid out in the Pennsylvania Constitution.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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