



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:27 AM
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)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Amanda Cappelletti
 PA Senate - 17th District (Cappelletti@pasenate.com)
 412 Stony Way
 Norristown, PA 19403 US

Comments entered:

I am writing in support of the Environmental Quality Board's proposed amendments to Chapter 145, which will establish limits on carbon dioxide from fossil fuels generated in Pennsylvania and allow us to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Tackling climate change presents enormous challenges to the Commonwealth, but the risks of inaction far outweigh those costs. Furthermore, those risks increase daily until we take action.

Article 1, Section 27 of the PA Constitution guarantees every Pennsylvanian "a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." Joining RGGI will ensure the DEP can continue to protect the rights of Pennsylvanians across our great Commonwealth. It will also provide an opportunity for the Commonwealth to generate revenue which can be reinvested into energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy sources, and direct bill assistance programs to help save our constituents money. I fully support Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI.

Pennsylvania is falling behind its neighbors, as one of the last states in the northeast to have not joined the RGGI. The program has existed for the last ten years with proven positive economical and ecological benefits. It will benefit individual Pennsylvanians by increasing their personal disposable income, collectively, by \$3.7 billion over the next thirty years. In RGGI states, electricity prices have already dropped by 5.7%.

As an attorney with my master's in public health, I am confident RGGI will provide a multitude of benefits to public health and safety. RGGI will reduce greenhouse gas emissions: carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter pollution, and ground-level ozone which contribute to severe respiratory health issues. When these particles are elevated, damage to the lining of the lungs occurs which aggravates COPD, asthma, coronary artery disease, and congestive heart failure; and resulting in 639 premature deaths, 30,000 hospital visits, and 83,000 lost workdays per year. The value to public health by reducing sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide alone is between \$2 and \$6 billion.

RGGI is of the utmost importance to the constituents I serve. Both before and since taking office I have heard from numerous individuals asking me to support this initiative. Additionally, a survey conducted by Climate Nexus in the fall of 2020 reveals that 72% of Pennsylvanians support our Commonwealth's participation in RGGI. The timing of this survey is also important; even during the greatest global health crisis in generations, and the resulting economic hardship it has inflicted, addressing climate change remains popular among the citizens we serve. In an era of political polarization and discord such consensus is rare.

I urge the EQB and DEP to move deliberately and quickly on the RGGI rule in the interest of real and meaningful climate action for 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