



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:18 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)

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:

Art Haywood
 Pennsylvania State Senator (emily.pugliese@pasenate.com)
 7106 Germantown Ave
 Philadelphia, PA 19119 US

Comments entered:

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 climate change are a reality in the United States and Pennsylvania, evidenced by flooding, drought, heat waves, more frequent and intense wildfires and an increase in severe storms. To lessen the impacts of climate change, states and communities around the country are implementing regulations to increase clean energy and decrease oil, gas and coal consumption. As the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to be a leader in implementing climate solutions and reducing emissions. Joining RGGI is a key step towards that goal.

Over the past twelve years, RGGI has proven the most successful state-level program in the nation for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Besides addressing emissions, the RGGI is spurring job creation, reducing electricity prices and generating billions of dollars of revenue to transition to renewable energy. The evidence is clear:

- Electricity prices fell 5.7% in RGGI states, while nationwide prices have increased by 8.6%.
- Economic growth in RGGI states has outpaced the rest of the country by 31% and RGGI has raised over \$2.5 billion in participating states for energy efficiency and renewable energy

projects.

- In Pennsylvania the initiative is projected to create 27,000 new jobs and put nearly \$2 billion into the state's economy over the next decade alone.

Investments in renewable energy are especially relevant in Pennsylvania, as the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) will sunset in May of 2021. Implementation of RGGI in Pennsylvania would help to boost the renewable energy portfolio in the Commonwealth and could aide in achieving benchmarks set forth in proposed legislation that would renew and strengthen AEPS. RGGI has a strong history of providing significant investment in renewable energy projects. In 2018, out of the \$248 million dollars of RGGI investments in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement and direct bill assistance, \$47 million, or 19%, went towards clean and renewable energy projects that helped to create jobs and reduce emissions. Over the last 12 year, \$600 million has been invested to increase renewable energy projects in RGGI states.

Through this program, Pennsylvania can drive down climate and air pollution, and create thousands of good clean energy jobs right here in the commonwealth.

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

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [Senator Art Haywood RGGI Comments.docx](#)

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