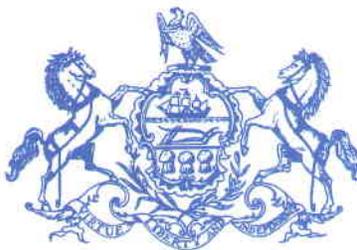


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January 14, 2021

Hon. Patrick McDonnell
Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection
and Chairman of the Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105

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

Dear Secretary McDonnell and Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

Consistent with my duties to render informed judgement on behalf of the citizens I represent; my belief in the executive's prerogative to join multi-state programs and compacts; and the bold notion that my children and future generations deserve to breathe increasingly clean air and drink clean water, free from fear of the climatological, health, and geopolitical threats posed by the effects of climate change – I submit these public comments in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gasses in the nation, Pennsylvania has an opportunity and responsibility to partner with other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states by joining RGGI. Public health threats that are airborne are sometimes – and sadly – hard to grasp or quantify; we can't see them until their effects reveal themselves via serious illness, doctor visits, and hospital stays. While we are tragically aware of the imminent threat posed by a highly-transmissible coronavirus, we must also be aware of the airborne threats caused by carbon emissions that result in hundreds of deaths and an average of 30,000 hospital visits from respiratory illnesses in Pennsylvania each year.

Joining RGGI would also be a net positive for job creation, the economy, and individuals' pocketbooks. It is projected that roughly 27,000 new jobs would be created and \$2 billion would be injected into the state's economy over the next decade. In states that have joined RGGI, electricity prices have fallen by 5.7% while prices elsewhere across the country have risen by 8.6%.

At a time when we must think big and act boldly to protect the public's health and revive our state's economy, I believe that joining RGGI is a step we must take and a regional effort we're obliged to join.

Sincerely,

Kyle J. Mullins
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
112th District