



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:07 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:

Rep. Napoleon Nelson
PA House of Representatives - 154th District (jfennell@pahouse.net)
26B East Wing P.O. Box 202154
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2154 US

Comments entered:

The following comment is from Rep. Napoleon Nelson on the RGGI.

Implementing Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) will save money in terms of reducing the costs of chronic respiratory disease, will create jobs, and will hasten transition to energy sources that do not catastrophically disrupt the climate because of greenhouse gas emissions.

It is often the case that initiatives to reign in environmental destruction by limiting pollution are framed in terms of the cost to industry. This is a fallacy. In fact, air pollution externalizes health care costs onto the citizenry and that loss is felt in missed days of work, reduced productivity, health care expenses and damage to our economy.

Hospitalizations in the Commonwealth due to respiratory illness have annually cost upwards of \$1.7 billion in Pennsylvania, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. And this number was generated prior to a global pandemic. Pennsylvania could prevent hundreds of premature deaths from lung disease, and avoid tens of thousands of hospital visit due to respiratory problems at a time when our medical infrastructure is already at capacity.

Furthermore, joining RGGI is a matter of social justice. Lost lives and medical expenses because of air pollution fall more heavily on the poor and people of color.

This carbon pollution control plan can both reduce harmful climate-changing CO2 emissions and is an investment program, shifting economic stimulation to sectors of the economy where our future prosperity lies. Economic projections predict that RGGI would generate a net increase of tens of thousands of long term jobs in Pennsylvania and add projected \$1.9 billion to the state's economy by 2030.

Most importantly, the planet is running out of time, and Pennsylvania generates a disproportionately high portion of the planet's greenhouse gasses. We need to step up and do our part. This program has reduced climate pollution by almost half in the past decade in the states that have already joined, saved lives, and created thousands of new employment in states across the northeast. Please wield what influence you can to urge that Pennsylvania joins the other states in the RGGI program.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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