



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-jflanagan@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. Steve Samuelson
 PA House of Representatives - 135th District (ssamuels@pahouse.net)
 104 E. Broad Street
 Bethlehem, PA 18018 US

Comments entered:

TO: Environmental Quality Board
 P.O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

FROM: State Representative Steve Samuelson, 135th District
 104 E. Broad Street
 Bethlehem, PA 18018

I write to convey my strong support for Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This multi-state initiative has proven effective in reducing carbon emissions in nine northeastern states from Maryland to Maine. Virginia is currently in the process of joining. Pennsylvania – as the 4th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation – has a responsibility in to be a leader in implementing climate solutions and our state will benefit greatly by joining this regional approach to reducing carbon emissions.

The states that are already part of RGGI have seen increased employment, lower electricity prices and a 47 percent decrease in carbon pollution. Furthermore, the revenue generated through RGGI has allowed these states to invest billions of dollars in clean energy projects, energy efficiency and conservation efforts. Joining RGGI is projected to create 27,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania and put nearly \$2 billion into the state's economy over the next decade.

Joining RGGI will lower pollution and significantly improve air quality in Pennsylvania, thereby protecting the health and well being of our residents. Our state Constitution guarantees residents the right to clean air and pure water. Joining RGGI will lead to significant public health benefits as pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide and particulate matter are reduced. Over the next 10 years, it is projected that carbon emissions in Pennsylvania could drop by 188 million tons by joining RGGI.

The climate crisis is real. Joining RGGI will result in lower carbon emissions, cleaner air, and thousands of good paying jobs in Pennsylvania. RGGI is the most successful state-level program in the nation when it comes to addressing greenhouse gas emissions, and it is time for Pennsylvania to join our neighboring states.

I urge you to approve plans for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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PA Department of Environmental Protection
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