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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Chairman, Education Committee

Caucuses

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency, Member
Board of Directors
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Black History Advisory Committee, Member
PA Legislative Black Caucus, Member



November 25, 2020

Environmental Quality Board
Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing to submit my comments during PA-DEP's public comment period in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The impacts of the climate crisis are becoming clearer every day, with higher temperatures, dangerous storms, wildfires, and hurricanes down south. 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 to be the most successful state-level program in the nation when it comes to addressing greenhouse gas emissions. From 2008 through 2018, carbon pollution has decreased by 47% in participating RGGI states, outpacing the rest of the country by 90%.

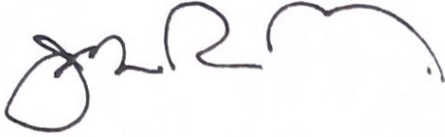
Reducing emissions from dirty power plants also has tremendous health benefits. Lower air pollution in RGGI states has led to significantly fewer illnesses. Studies show that by joining RGGI, Pennsylvania could avoid 30,000 hospital visits for respiratory related illnesses.

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. Studies have also shown that the cost of implementing RGGI will actually save consumers money. In fact, electricity prices have fallen by 5.7% in RGGI states, while prices have increased in other states by 8.6%.

Through this program, Pennsylvania can drive down climate and air pollution, help the economy, and create jobs. We need to create a safe climate for future generations, and RGGI is the first step for Pennsylvania.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this plan, and I urge your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Representative James Roebuck
188th Legislative District