



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG



December 3, 2020

Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

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

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

I am writing to offer my support for Regulation #7-559. Now is the time for us to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Greenhouse gas emissions are causing climate change and are polluting our atmosphere, causing serious impacts to our public health, infrastructure, emergency service, and economy. By joining RGGI, we could reduce pollution of NO<sub>x</sub> by 112,000 tons and SO<sub>2</sub> by 67,000 tons over the next decade. This would dramatically reduce health problems including respiratory illness, heart attack, stroke, cancer, and mental health problems. This action could prevent hundreds of premature deaths and 30,000 hospital visits for respiratory illness. How can we not act on this information alone?

Joining RGGI would also bring economic benefits. It would create 27,000 new jobs, would put nearly \$2 billion into the state's economy over the next decade, and would reduce electricity rates. Since RGGI's inception, electricity rates have fallen in compact states by 5.7% while prices have increased by 8.6% in the rest of the country. Further, RGGI investments have returned \$1.4 billion in energy bill savings to households and businesses.

Pennsylvania is the largest greenhouse gas polluter in our region. We have an outsized effect on the environment. Not joining is unconscionable.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Hanbidge".

Liz Hanbidge  
State Representative  
61st Legislative District

LH/pg