



DEP RGGI Rule Making Testimony  
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Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am State Representative Jim Struzzi. I represent the 62<sup>nd</sup> legislative district in Indiana County. I have two of the largest coal-fired electric generation plants in my district and I am proud to represent the hard-working families that sustain our energy industry and power the east coast.

First, I want to state that I am opposed to the overall process of these hearings during a pandemic, and during the holiday season when many are distracted by other activities. These hearings and this entire process should be placed on hold until in-person public hearings can be held. Many of my constituents are unable to participate due to lack of internet access.

I am also opposed to the process of enacting these rules without legislative approval. If PA enters RGGI, we will be the only state that enters RGGI without legislative approval, essentially without the voice of all PA residents being heard. This is unacceptable in

a state that is constitutionally governed by legislative representation. To that end, I introduced HB 2025 earlier this year that would have required legislative approval for RGGI or any multi-state compact. The bill, which Governor Wolf vetoed, received bipartisan support from representatives in 63 of 67 counties in Pennsylvania. The governor's RGGI plan was not presented as a piece of legislation. It was presented as an executive order, effectively circumventing the entire legislative process. This should not be moving forward without a vote in the General Assembly.

I am hearing a lot of misinformation during these hearings. Pennsylvania's membership in RGGI would have far-reaching repercussions that would impact much more than our greenhouse gas emission levels which, by the way, have already been reduced significantly more than the governor's Climate Action goals, the required reductions under the now repealed Clean Power Plan and the Paris Climate Accord. We have already achieved reductions comparable to those of RGGI member states, all without a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system.

This decision would have a direct negative impact not only on the employees of these energy producers, but for all Pennsylvania residents who consume energy. RGGI states have seen significant increases in consumer electric rates. But again, none

of these negative impacts are being discussed by the administration or in the DEP modeling.

And when these negative impacts were mentioned during Zoom hearings this spring, three DEP advisory committees voted against moving RGGI forward. I think that speaks volumes, and yet RGGI is still advancing.

If RGGI is enacted we will lose thousands of well-paying, energy related jobs. The promise of possible future jobs is not going to help the families and communities I represent. We already know our power plants will close if RGGI is implemented and jobs and capital investment will go to Ohio and West Virginia. Our four coal-fired electric generation plants in western PA account for 8,170 jobs and contribute \$2.87 billion to our economy. In Indiana County alone, that is 1,490 jobs and \$873 million to our annual economy. The loss of these jobs will have a devastating impact on our local school districts that rely on property taxes from these plants for their budgets.

Don't take my word for it on job losses; 17 different trade unions from all corners of the state that represent these hard-working Pennsylvania families supported my bill and oppose RGGI.

I believe that these measures proposed by the governor would impact all Pennsylvanians in ways not considered by the governor

or the DEP. This is not about climate change; it is about creating a tax on a specific industry. If RGGI is implemented, PA will go from being an energy exporter to an energy importer. Our economy will suffer and we will see more jobs, families and industry leave our state. RGGI will put our energy industry out of business and carbon tax money the administration is counting on will be gone as well. Pennsylvania workers have been beaten down too much this year already and it is time for that to stop.

There are other ways to address climate change without hurting industry and jobs. I implore you to consider the economic and other impacts of RGGI. No one from the administration has come to Indiana County. No one has stood before my communities, these men and women and their families, and looked them in eye to tell them they are killing their jobs and industry now for a benefit that might – might - occur in few decades. The people I represent will be crushed by RGGI and I implore you to consider that.

Thank you