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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG



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

As a Pennsylvania legislator representing the 146th District in Montgomery County, I am writing to submit my comments during PA-DEP's public comment period in support of the Keystone state joining RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I fully grasp and appreciate the growing urgency to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Elected officials at the state and local level share in the responsibility to craft bipartisan solutions that will help preserve our planet for future generations. Furthermore, I have heard from many constituents in my district who care passionately about this issue.

We can afford to wait no longer. Why RGGI?

From 2008 through 2018, carbon pollution has decreased by 47 percent in participating RGGI states, outpacing the rest of the country by 90 percent. If Pennsylvania joins RGGI, it is projected to reduce the commonwealth's carbon emissions by 188 million tons by 2030 -- equivalent to taking more than 36 million cars off the road.

RGGI is also expected to offer Pennsylvania significant economic benefits. The initiative is projected to create 27,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania and put nearly \$2 billion into the state's economy over the next decade alone. This is accomplished, in part, through savings that are given back to participating states. In turn, those dollars support weatherization programs to save consumers money, solar installations in low- and moderate-income households, supplemental LIHEAP funding to keep people warm, and more.

We are also called to action by the oath we take as lawmakers to uphold the Pennsylvania Constitution:

Article 1 Section 27 of the PA Constitution grants every Pennsylvanian "a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment." By reducing power plant emissions under RGGI, we work to uphold that mandate.

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

Sincerely,

Rep. Joe Ciresi