



Climate change is an emergency, and we have to use every tool we can to fight it. I am submitting this public comment in support of Pennsylvania joining RGGI to help reduce emissions, thereby protecting our precious environment and our own health.

For decades, our nation's political leaders have refused to take action to protect our environment, and the impacts are dire. There is no doubt in my mind that every state and every nation will eventually have no choice but to acknowledge our peril and fight against it.

Pennsylvania, though, can and should be a leader in combatting the climate crisis. As the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation, this commonwealth can help show the way forward for states that seek to transition to a clean and safe economy that also supports working families across sectors.

Over the 12 years of its existence, 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 percent in participating RGGI states, outpacing the rest of the country by 90 percent.

If Pennsylvania joins RGGI, it's projected to reduce the commonwealth's carbon emissions by a massive 188 million tons by 2030 -- equivalent to taking more than 36 million cars off the road. These lasting shifts will help protect and sustain our environment long term, but they will also steadily improve the health of Pennsylvanians, reducing heart attacks, respiratory illnesses and premature deaths.

RGGI offers Pennsylvania great promise from an economic standpoint, potentially creating 27,000 jobs and injecting nearly \$2 billion into the state economy over the next decade. Consumers -- my constituents -- also stand to benefit financially during a challenging time. The cost of electricity has dropped by 5.7 percent in RGGI states, while it rose in the rest of the country by 8.6 percent.

With RGGI, Pennsylvania can protect our precious environment at the same time that it modernizes our workforce and lowers household costs. It's not the only tool we need to employ to address our climate crisis, but it is a powerful one that has been carefully studied and tested.

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