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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG



December 18, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board:

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

It is increasingly clear that climate change is having a negative impact throughout the United States and the rest of the world. We have witnessed deadly higher summer temperatures and dangerous storms here in Pennsylvania as the western states have been ravaged by destructive wildfires and the southern states by devastating hurricanes. 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 would put Pennsylvania on the path to significantly reduce carbon pollution and reduce emissions from dirty power plants. Lower air pollution in RGGI states has resulted in numerous health benefits by reducing premature deaths from respiratory illnesses, avoiding hospital visits related to respiratory illness, and providing a healthy air quality environment. From an economic standpoint RGGI has the potential to create thousands of new jobs and infuse billions of dollars into our state's economy.

Through this program Pennsylvania can address climate change issues and drive down air pollution while fostering much needed economic benefits by generating billions for our economy and creating good paying new jobs. It would also help us meet our Pennsylvania constitutional mandate under Article I, Section 27 to guarantee to our citizens "a right to clean air."

I urge the EQB to approve the plan for Pennsylvania to join RGGI.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Freeman
State Representative
136th District