



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, December 28, 2020 4:31 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net  
**Cc:** c-jflanagan@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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### Re: eComment System

**The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).**

Commenter Information:

Mary Jo Daley  
 PA House of Representatives (mjdaley@pahouse.net)  
 1294 Montgomery Ave.  
 Narberth, PA 19072 US

Comments entered:

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

I support Pennsylvania joining our neighboring states, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York, as well as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont in RGGI. The Pennsylvania Constitution Article 1, Section 27 establishes that every Pennsylvanian has "a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." Pennsylvania is known as an oil and gas state, and as the nation's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases. This is the time for Pennsylvania to join RGGI and take an important step towards the goal of reducing greenhouse gases.

From 2008 through 2018, carbon pollution has decreased by 47% in participating RGGI states outpacing the rest of the country by 90%. When Pennsylvania joins RGGI, it is 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.

As a society, we are beginning to understand the impact of public health on mental and physical health, our economy and the socioeconomic impacts on low-income communities and communities of color. Reducing emissions from dirty power plants also has tremendous health

benefits. Lower air pollution in RGGI states has led to significantly fewer premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses. Studies show that by joining RGGI, Pennsylvania could prevent hundreds of premature deaths from respiratory illnesses, avoiding 30,000 hospital visits for respiratory related illnesses.

RGGI has the potential to bring significant economic benefits to Pennsylvania, including creation of 27,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania and nearly \$2 billion added to the state's economy over the next ten years alone. Studies have shown that the cost of implementing RGGI is negligible for ratepayers, and if done correctly, will save consumers money. Residents of RGGI states have seen their electricity prices fall by 5.7%, during a time that prices have increased in the rest of the country by 8.6%.

During these times of financial uncertainty for so many Pennsylvanians, my constituents would certainly benefit from these cost reductions.

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

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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