



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG



August 26, 2021

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Regulation #7- 559 (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)

Dear Commissioners:

We, the undersigned legislators, write to express our strong support for the final Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Regulation #7-559, Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program, which would allow Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This regulation is a crucial part of Pennsylvania's efforts to combat climate change and should be fully promulgated.

Climate change is the most serious environmental threat confronting the world. The reality that climate change is upon us is evident through recent chaotic weather events and wildfires. According to a recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) draft report, "the worst is yet to come...even at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming, conditions will change beyond many organisms' ability to adapt." We have absolutely no time to waste. The scientific community, international organizations, and the public agree, urgent action is needed to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

RGGI is a time-tested 11-state cap-and-trade program founded in 2009 designed to reduce greenhouse emissions from the electric power sector.

RGGI would not impose a tax, rather it requires electric power producers to purchase carbon emission allowances at RGGI's quarterly auctions or elsewhere. These allowances can be freely "traded" on the open market. Participating states invest the proceeds from these auctions in energy efficiency and clean energy.

These regulations are authorized by Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act (APCA). The Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), can adopt rules and regulations for the prevention, control, reduction, and abatement of air pollution in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, legislative approval is not required for

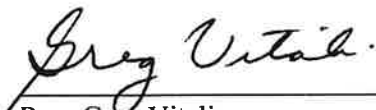
Pennsylvania to join RGGI. In fact, adequate legislative input is already provided through the Regulatory Review Act.

The most important thing Pennsylvania can do right now to combat climate change is to join RGGI. Pennsylvania is the fifth-largest carbon dioxide emitting U.S. state and about 30% of Pennsylvania's total greenhouse gas emissions come from its electric power sector -- mainly coal and gas-fired power plants. The regulation would cut carbon emissions in the Commonwealth by about 31% by 2030.

In addition to addressing climate change, joining RGGI will provide economic benefits to Pennsylvania. Due to Governor Wolf's decision to join RGGI, Energy Harbor Nuclear Corp. rescinded its decision to deactivate its two Beaver Valley nuclear units, saving 1,000 jobs. Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) modeling indicates that joining RGGI will have a net increase of 30,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.

Joining RGGI by implementing Regulation #7-559 is an important step for Pennsylvania's climate action plan and is in the public's best interest. The regulation has proceeded appropriately, and we strongly urge its timely promulgation. Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.


Sincerely,



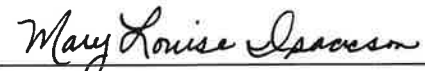
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155th Legislative District



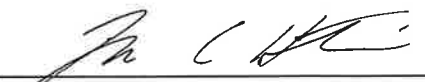
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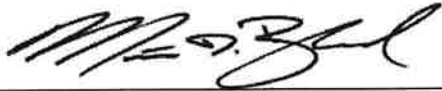
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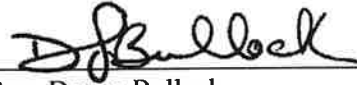
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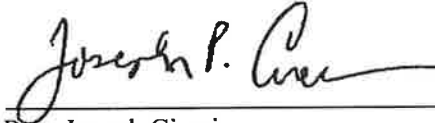
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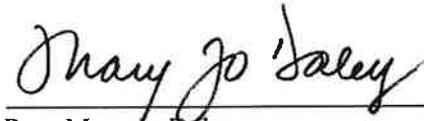
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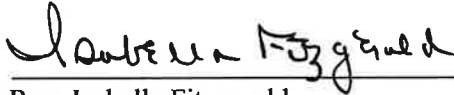
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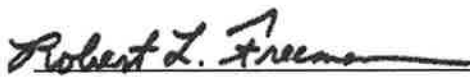
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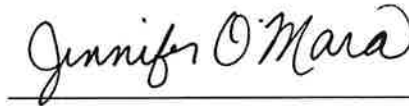
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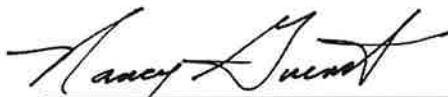
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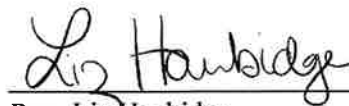
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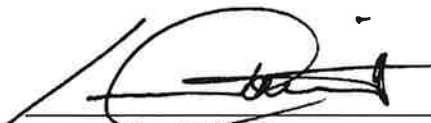
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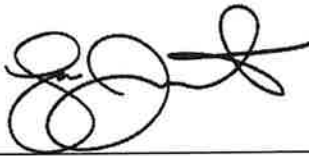
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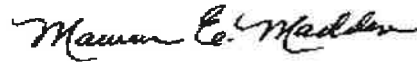
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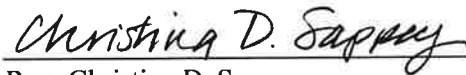
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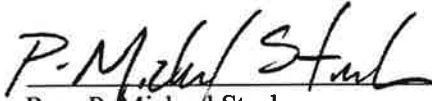
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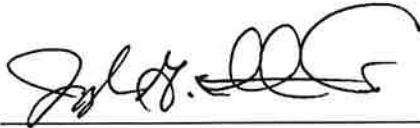
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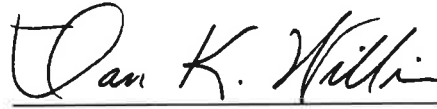
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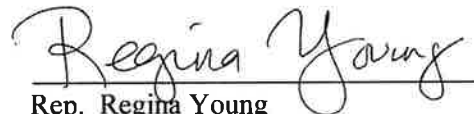
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Rep. Tim Briggs
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Pamela A. DeLissio (signed)

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194th Legislative District



Rep. Regina Young
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