



## Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

Amanda Lapham  
315 N 12th Street, Philadelphia PA 19107  
amanda.lapham42@gmail.com

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). My name is Amanda Lapham and I currently live in Philadelphia, just a few blocks north of city hall.

The neighborhood where I live has undergone dramatic changes over the last several decades. The apartment building I live in was once a shoe factory, and is now LEED certified, powered by 100% wind energy, and completely energy efficient. The community trail behind my home where I walk my dog each morning, was once the railroad that served the historic "Reading Terminal", and is now a public green space, with 11 different species of trees and pollinator friendly flowers. Living in this area inspires me daily to imagine a more sustainable future; one that prioritizes community, sustainability, and tackling climate change.

And as a young person, I am often thinking about my own future and what it may look like if we don't prioritize sustainability and don't take serious action on tackling the climate crisis. With the changes I've already seen in my own backyard, it's clear these solutions exist and can continue in communities all across the state, as long as we prioritize and invest in them. What if we invested in more public green spaces that could sequester carbon and create safe spaces to socialize and play? What if we invested in affordable, energy efficient housing with solar panels atop every roof?

Joining RGGI will allow us to do just that: tackle climate change and invest in our futures. By setting a cap on carbon pollution from power plants, and reducing those caps each year, climate pollution will dramatically and continually decrease. States already participating in this program have been able to cut their carbon pollution by 47%, almost in half.

By requiring power plant owners to pay for their pollution, we'll cut emissions even faster and we'll be able to invest the money raised into projects that transition us away from harmful fossil fuels, prioritize clean energy and energy efficiency, and overall protect our environment and our health. To date, RGGI has raised over \$2.5 billion in participating states for these types of projects, which only further helps us combat the impacts of climate change we've already begun to experience.

When I walk along the converted rail park in my neighborhood, or sit in my home that was once a factory and is now equipped with modern-day clean energy technologies, I am grateful and inspired by the power to take something old, and antiquated, and transform it into something wonderful, and new. By joining RGGI, Pennsylvania has the opportunity to pursue the transformation of our energy economy, from our polluting past to a clean future, while cutting the carbon emissions we so desperately need to reduce.

That's why I support Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, to help us reduce climate pollution and invest in the sustainable, clean energy future our communities need and deserve. I look forward to seeing what type of future we can imagine and build together. Thank you.