



December 11, 2020

**Public Hearing: CO2 Budget Trading Program, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Quality Board**

Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

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Good morning. My name is Amy Nassif and I live just north of Pittsburgh in Mars, Butler County. I grew up in Western Pennsylvania and returned here after college to settle and raise my children close to my extended family. I am a mother of 2 school age daughters, and I have been in the healthcare profession as a Geriatric Physical Therapist for over 25 years. I have been an advocate for my children, my family, my community, and my clients over the years, and I am compelled to speak to you this morning in support of the CO2 Budget Trading Program under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Living here in Pennsylvania we are fortunate to have our right to clean air established in our state constitution. The governor and the Department of Environmental Protection are our environmental stewards and are responsible for taking quick action on behalf of our residents, especially our most vulnerable, to ensure that right. I have vulnerable family members that suffer with respiratory and cardiac disease, and the quality of air that they breathe has a direct impact on daily life, frequency of medical needs, and ultimately their longevity. Adding Pennsylvania to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is taking a fiscally responsible, and more importantly, community protecting step toward decreasing pollution in our state, thus creating a cleaner and safer environment for everyone.

Working with the geriatric population and understanding the detrimental effects of pollution, I have been on the front line assisting our most valued community members navigate how the environment impacts their health. For example, my clients with health comorbidities may have physical limitations. Our goal may be to increase outdoor ambulation, when appropriate, to build strength and endurance and promote community access. We must pay close attention to the air quality and our ozone action days to decide if they can safely participate in outdoor activities. The same is true for children, pregnant women, and anyone with respiratory or heart disease. Unfortunately, the prevalence for such diseases and comorbidities is high in our region and more needs to be done to curb pollution and provide a healthier environment. Because I cannot control the air that my patients breathe, I depend on my elected officials and state agencies do their jobs and protect them with comprehensive and meaningful pollution protections. By participating in RGGI, Pennsylvania can improve the air quality resulting in 500,000 less restricted activity days, 639 avoided premature deaths, and over 31,000 less people with respiratory disease.

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As I continue to help and encourage others in the community to help our environment, I would encourage you, as our community stewards, to quickly move forward with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Pennsylvania needs to join our ten neighboring states and commit to reducing CO2 emissions. You now have the science and research to support this decision. You have the ability to quickly help my family, my friends, our children, and my dearest senior clients enjoy a safer and cleaner environment.

I appreciate having the opportunity to provide testimony today.
Best regards to all present and listening today.
Thank you.