



**Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation
December 11, 2020
PA Department of Environmental Protection Hearing**

Anne McCarthy, OSB
6101 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511

Speaking for: Erie Benedictines for Peace

Good morning. Thank you for holding this public hearing on such an important topic.

I am Anne McCarthy, a Benedictine Sisters, speaking on behalf of Benedictines for Peace in Erie and speaking in support of the CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation.

As Benedictines and Christian, we believe deeply that all of us, globally, are connected, are united, are one. The reasons to support RGGI extend beyond our state borders to the globe and from our present to the future and from the environment to its intersection with other issues: sexism, racism, and poverty.

Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'* highlighted the intersection of issues:

"The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: "Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest." (para 48)

We know that climate crisis is seen starkly around the globe. Climate catastrophe causes poverty, disease, and leads to political chaos and war and to massive movements of refugees. Indeed we are in the midst of the largest refugee crisis in history.

Look more deeply at the events this fall in Guatemala particularly.

Already crippled by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, Central America is now confronting another catastrophe: monster hurricanes

The Benedictine sisters in Guatemala sent us a message: "in our area of Alta Verapaz we are suffering the consequences of two hurricanes (Eta and Iota) that have flooded entire villages, there are landslides, 4 blocks from our house people lost part of their belongings, there is no travel by road. If you can help with aid for food for people who do not have anything to eat, and also your prayers. Thank you, Sister Susana and the Reina de la Pax Community in Coban, Guatemala.

Having sisters in Guatemala suffering from climate catastrophe while we live in the state which is a large emitter of greenhouse gasses reminds us that what we are all connected.

We aren't just connected, we are sisters and brothers with others on the planet. And we are in relationship with all other species.

RGGI is a proven, effective program for reducing greenhouse emissions in our state so we contribute less to the catastrophe around the globe. It's a moral imperative.

As Pope Francis writes, "These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course."

Anne McCarthy, OSB
Benedictines for Peace
Erie, PA