



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 12:57 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-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 7 (9am) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/11/2020 12:00:00 AM
Testimony location: WebEx

Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Anne Wootten
 (atwrsm@aol.com)
 250 East Wynnewood Rd
 Wynnewood, PA 19096 US

Comments entered:

My name is Anne Wootten, I live in Wynnewood Pennsylvania. I am a retired geriatric nurse practitioner but I have retained my registered nurses license to use when I visit homebound elderly as part of the Friendly Visitor Program at St. Helena's Food Bank where I have been volunteering since I retired Almost all of the seniors I see have medical conditions effected by increased air pollution, the worst of these being asthma.

I want to give testimony today out of a concern for the future of this planet. Important also is what is happening in the state of Pennsylvania. We have an opportunity to reduce our carbon emissions by participating in the RGGI initiative. It would also be an opportunity to create jobs in the clean energy sector and lower the cost of electricity.

When I went looking I found out that Pennsylvania is the fourth largest producer of green house gases in the country behind Texas, California and Florida. There are 7,788 active wells in the state and 66 operators or owners of these wells in the state. There have been 4,006 violations for these companies who paid 6.1 million dollars in fines. A large number of these violations

have occurred in Northeast Pennsylvania. To me this sounds like a lot of wells, a lot of companies and a lot of violations. And there are more and more illnesses related to carbon emissions particularly among the elderly and communities of color and low income communities. This is disturbing to me

With the RGGI proposal I see an opportunity to do something about this. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI is a multistate program started in 2008. It works by setting a cap on carbon pollution, with the cap going down each year. Power plant owners must pay for their pollution. This prods them to reduce pollution even more quickly. The states that are part of this program can then invest that money in renewable energy projects.

As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to do more in implementing climate solutions and reducing emissions. We have that opportunity to do so in collaboration with other states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. There is clear data that in the states already participating, carbon pollution has decreased by 47%, outpacing the rest of the country by 90%. Statistics show that reduced carbon emissions could mean increased energy bill savings which would be significant. It would be like removing on average 2.1million vehicles from the road in one year. That sounds significant to me.

Another benefit of being a part of RGGI is reducing pollution by sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide from the air we breathe.

The health of our state could be improved. Respiratory illnesses and deaths from these illnesses would be lessened. Our constitution states that Pennsylvanians have a right to clean air and water. Joining RGGI is a way to ensure that our air is cleaner and water pollution is reduced. The last benefit of RGGI is about the money. RGGI has proven to be beneficial for creating jobs, reducing electricity prices and generating billions of dollars to invest in clean energy projects. This is clearly the case for those states already participating in the RGGI Initiative. Why are we in Pennsylvania not also be participating? Governor Wolf has already signaled his intention to join the RGGI Initiative. I hope that all of us would back the Governor on this initiative. It is an initiative we in Pennsylvania need and deserve. Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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