



## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 12:57 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net  
**Cc:** c-jflanagan@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:

April Clisura  
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Comments entered:

Thank you. My name is April Clisura and I live in Pittsburgh. In 2017, as a new, stay-at-home mom living in a drafty house without air conditioning in a City where you can sometimes smell the bad air quality, it was natural for me to start getting involved in local issues of air quality and home energy efficiency. As a citizen of this commonwealth, few policy questions could be more clear cut to me than that we should have a system for purchasing CO2 allowances. It's unbelievable we have gone on for so long without one, even as predictions about how the warming of the planet will affect Pennsylvania, and other states, have begun to become reality. Just as crops in Pennsylvania are under threat from flood damage and heat stress, lobstering in mid-coast Maine has declined and fishermen are forced to either move further north or find a new livelihood. Not only is this causing economic stress, it is also causing problems in civil society. Climate change has led to heavier rainfall in Pennsylvania, and this is only expected to increase as the effects of climate change worsen. Here in Pittsburgh we have had incidents in the last two years where several important roads were completely impassible due to landslides

and washouts. The neighborhood next to and downhill from mine has experienced a dramatic increase in flooding over the last 10 years, with combined sewer overflow backwashing into basements and blowing out manholes like a geyser during heavy rain events.

As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gasses in the country, we Pennsylvanians have to recognize that we have an outsized role in contributing to climate change. With regard to our power plants, in the past, people did successfully argue that the need for a stable power supply demands concessions on our air quality - and argued that we would over the decades learn to solve the far-down-the-road problem of the greenhouse effect before it would impact us. But not today. Today we have studied enough medical evidence to know that the impacts of air pollution are not born equally by all in the population. We have enough science to know that the CO2 we in the industrialized world have produced in the last 40 years will be around for a very long time and will determine the quality of life that our grandchildren and beyond will experience. And today, numerous experts have repeatedly stated that it is not the technology that limits us from adopting larger amounts of renewable energy production, but the lack of political will.

What we need to do now is try to avoid the most severe results of climate change by turning the ship around, and RGGI is a big piece of that with its system of incentives and disincentives that is actually good for us and our economy.

I urge officials to make sure weatherization and retrofitting of old buildings is part of the energy efficiency component of RGGI investment strategies. It would not only create jobs, but relieve the suffering of elderly and low-income Pennsylvanians who can't safely or centrally heat their homes. I have leant heaters to 3 different neighbors during winters.

Another reason to focus on the energy efficiency aspects of RGGI is that there is no totally clean bill of health when it comes to large-scale energy production. While renewable sources of energy, like solar and wind, should definitely expand because greenhouse gas-driven climate change is the greatest threat to masses of vulnerable people all over the world, it is still not completely without impacts. Coal and natural gas extraction have harmed our workers' health and our own land and water for generations. But on some scale, the supply chain for lithium and other substances to build solar panels and wind turbines has harmed workers and polluted land used for subsistence in China, South America and other places. To mitigate that, we should do everything in our power to use recycled materials in the supply chain, use alternatives like saline storage batteries, and exert what influence we can over mining practices globally. And above all, we should strive to consume less energy. The component of RGGI that has so much potential to help us with a just transition away from burning a lot of fossil fuel is this retrofitting and weatherization of existing buildings and other technologies that allow us to use less energy. Imagine extraction industry workers shifting to work on weatherizing homes and retrofitting heating and cooling systems of large structures.

The infrastructure for the CO2 budget trading program is there, it works for the common good of energy rate-payers, tax-payers, and all citizens, especially those with asthma and chronic respiratory problems - all we need to do is implement it.

Constitutionally, the commonwealth has the right to protect the quality of the air and the natural qualities of the environment, and slowing the greenhouse effect will certainly serve that purpose. For the sake of a stable climate, and for public health, I strongly support Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative!

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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