



## 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-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:

Catherine Cullen  
 (cathecull@gmail.com)  
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 State College, PA 16803 US

Comments entered:

My name is Cathy Cullen and I live in Centre County. I am in favor of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Pennsylvania has a long history as an energy leader. Our natural resources have helped spur the growth and development of both the state and the nation.

Currently we are the third-largest energy producer in the nation and the number one exporter of electricity. Unfortunately, our Commonwealth is also one of our nation's largest polluters.

According to the US Energy Information Administration (<https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/>),

Pennsylvania has the fifth-dirtiest power generation sector in the country.

We now have an opportunity to change that statistic.

By joining RGGI, Pennsylvania will be participating in a carbon dioxide reduction program that is both proven and flexible. As has already been experienced by participating states, this carbon trading system will encourage energy producers to adopt measures to reduce or avoid pollution.

Because of the flexibility of the program, Pennsylvania can choose how to allocate revenues in a way that best fits our commonwealth.

We can and should support energy efficiency upgrades for families and small businesses and should prioritize low-income families in this effort. We should assist local governments in their work to implement climate actions.

We should engage our farming and forestry communities by advancing carbon sequestration solutions such as regenerative agricultural methods, small-farm manure digesters and improved forest management.

These initiatives will create jobs. A 2018 study of RGGI performance found a net increase of 14,000 job-hours in participating states in just the three years from 2015 to 2017.

([https://www.analysisgroup.com/globalassets/uploadedfiles/content/insights/publishing/analysis\\_group\\_rggi\\_report\\_april\\_2018.pdf](https://www.analysisgroup.com/globalassets/uploadedfiles/content/insights/publishing/analysis_group_rggi_report_april_2018.pdf))

The Pennsylvania DEP model projects a net increase of over 27,000 jobs by 2030. The residents of our commonwealth deserve to benefit from this type of job creation.

In addition to the direct benefit of reduced carbon emissions and increased investment in Pennsylvania's energy future, there will be a secondary benefit to joining RGGI related to health. States participating in RGGI have seen a notable reduction of harmful pollutants like soot, mercury and sulfur dioxide. These potential pollution reductions are good news for Pennsylvania, which has some of the worst air quality in the nation. It is also personally important to me.

I have asthma, and my lungs are sensitive to fine particulate matter such as soot and also to high ozone levels. Both of these are generated in the process of producing energy from fossil fuels. Two years ago my husband and I moved to central Pennsylvania so that I could escape the unhealthy air that made it difficult for me to spend time outside, especially in the summer. My asthma is now under much better control. I am lucky, in that we had the ability to move to an area in Pennsylvania that allowed my health to improve. Many others are not this lucky.

RGGI has a 10-year history of delivering health and climate benefits to participating states. According to a 2017 report on the health impacts of the RGGI

program, (<https://www.abtassociates.com/rggi>), residents in the Northeast are now experiencing significantly fewer premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses. The residents of our commonwealth deserve this same benefit.

I believe that it is time to begin a new chapter in Pennsylvania's history of energy production. Let's harness the power of the RGGI pollution cap to expand the use of renewable energy. Let's invest in conservation initiatives that produce jobs. Let's reduce carbon emissions while also reducing other harmful pollutants and create a future in which everyone in our state and region can enjoy the benefits of clean air. I support Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the adoption of the proposed CO2 Budget Trading regulation. Thank you to the DEP and EQB staff for their hard work in pursuing this initiative. Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

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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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