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Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

Submitted by:

David Thomas Roberts  
1995 Valley View Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823-8844  
[puzzlewuzzle.dr@gmail.com](mailto:puzzlewuzzle.dr@gmail.com)  
Testifying as private citizen

My name is David Thomas Roberts. I reside in a small house on Purdue Mountain at 1995 Valley View Road, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania in Centre County. I am 68 years old and retired from a career as an Environmental Sanitarian and as a Water Analyst at Penn State University.

First I wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue and to make clear that I fully support the proposed CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation to bring Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This will provide a proven and effective market-based approach to reduce green house gases.

Overwhelming scientific consensus is that man made emissions of green house gases must be drastically reduced right now to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Negative climate warming effects are causing extreme weather events, brutally hot Summers, flash flooding, and periodic droughts. Right here in Benner Township the Purdue Mountain Road was washed out in 2016 from an extreme climate change weather event. It took more than a year and over a million dollars to repair and stabilize the road. The foundation of a house downstream from Purdue Mountain Road was undermined and compromised and required major stream bank stabilization to prevent the house from collapsing. My rain gauge recorded seven inches of rain from that event. My basement flooded and one of my pets nearly drowned. I do not wish to see another such extreme weather event caused from our carbon emissions.

Clean reliable energy is important to us all. My home has electric heat and air conditioning and I am living on a limited retirement income so the cost of my energy bill is of great concern to me. Participation of Pennsylvania in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will likely result long term in the reduction of residential electric bills. Reduced energy cost is a very important issue for me and for all of Pennsylvania.

The RGGI program will directly and positively effect me and my family members in many ways. I and some family members suffer from intermittent respiratory problems. We will benefit from improved air quality through the reduction of Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides, Sulfuric Dioxide, particulate matter, and ground level ozone emissions from fossil fuel-fired energy plants.

Prevention of costly infrastructure damage from the global warming caused by green house gases will help keep our taxes down and enable our economy to function smoothly.

Promotion and implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs will save money, improve our economy, and create well paying green jobs.

I come from a family of Welsh ancestry coal miners. My Father and my Grandfather worked the coal mines in the Wilkes Barre area. I also worked for a time in coal mining when I was much younger. However it is time to transition from coal to clean energy and the jobs that go with a green energy economy.

Promoting investment from CO2 allowance auction proceeds to improve energy efficiency such as by re-insulating old poorly insulated homes will help reduce the energy costs of people on limited incomes like me while further reducing CO2 emissions.

This RGGI program is a win win situation for all of us in Pennsylvania, the North West Region, and people across the World. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest green house gas emitter in the County and the USA is the second highest emitter in the World. I want to be part of a State and a Nation that is striving to reduce carbon emissions, fight climate change, and preserve our wonderful halcyon climate for many generations to come.

I support this proposed rule making and Governor Wolf's Executive Order instructing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I concur with Patrick McDonnell, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection who stated, "As a major electricity producer, Pennsylvania has a significant opportunity to reduce emissions and demonstrate its commitment to addressing climate change through a program with a proven track record."

As a citizen and permanent resident of Pennsylvania, I fully support Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Thank you.