



## Stephen Hoffman

**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:

Freda Tepfer  
 Erie County Democratic Party Environmental Caucus (fstepfer@yahoo.com)  
 1738 W 23rd  
 Erie, PA 16502 US

Comments entered:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative representing the Erie County Democratic Party Environmental Caucus.

My education included training as a soil scientist. My Work in forestry and County Government included watershed and water quality protection and restoration, land use and 7 years providing pollution prevention assistance to businesses that generated hazardous waste. My work and travel as an orientation and Mobility Specialist included a year in Alaska. While in Alaska in 2010, my second visit, I was saddened to see the significant retreat of the Matanuska Glacier. I saw polar bears in Barrow who are facing increased pressure due to the rapid and steady retreat of the sea ice.

As a Native Plant Gardener and avid walker, I am aware that our current climate is impacted by higher intensity snow and rain events, and disruption to the normal winter and summer climates.

In Erie County we are deeply concerned about Environmental Justice and the long term impact that pollution from Coke production and other sources has had on our poorest residents. People of color are over represented in the communities most impacted by air pollution.

We fully support Pennsylvania's participation in the RGGI program. Capping the production of CO2 and requiring CO2 producing power plants to purchase allowances will generate revenue to support more renewable fuel production and distribution, incentivize the purchase of clean power by lowering its price, encourage disinvestment in coal and other more polluting power generation methods and provide public health benefits due to the expected reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and the co-benefit reductions of sulfur dioxide (SO2) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions. Most critically RGGI will help our region do its part to meet the goals of the international efforts to reverse climate change. Regional efforts are more effective due to scale, impact on markets and will also insure a more cooperative approach to combating climate change.

RGGI participation can be expected to increase jobs, particularly in the sustainable fuels sector, decrease pollution, provide greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance. I recommend limiting the use of the RGGI program for Coal Waste used in power generation. I urge program managers to direct a share of the auction proceeds towards supporting Mass Transit. As I was well aware during my residency in Washington State, to be truly effective, a public transportation system needs a dedicated funding source. Mass transit is a part of the solution to climate change. Thank you

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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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