



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 12:50 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:

Gloria Lee
 (gloria.lee@publicinterestnetwork.com)
 3820 Locust Walk MB 0490
 Philadelphia, PA 19104 US

Comments entered:

Hi, my name is Gloria Lee, and I am testifying today as a private resident and concerned citizen in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I currently live in Philadelphia, and I moved here from Denver, Colorado with a friend a couple years ago. Before we came to Philadelphia, we loved going out on runs and taking hikes together. I was looking forward to continuing our runs when we moved here until he told me that the air in Philadelphia isn't like the air back home. He said that here, it was safer to run indoors to avoid exposure to air pollution.

At first, I wasn't the biggest believer; the air outside didn't seem as toxic as it was. But one day, when I took a car ride down to the Wells Fargo Center to watch a hockey game, I could see why he said that the air was so bad; I passed a bunch of power plants barreling black smoke and steam into the sky, and now I hate passing that area south of Center City.

I want to be able to run outside without worrying about how sick I'm going to get in the process. The chemicals being pumped into the atmosphere by those power plants in Center City as well

as many others throughout Pennsylvania have been shown to be carcinogenic. They also can lead to a host of respiratory illnesses, heart attacks, strokes, and more. Not to mention, another part of that pollution is carbon, and the immense carbon pollution that is sequestered in the air exacerbates the already worsening climate crisis we have on our hands. After having the opportunity to work with an environmental organisation here in Philly, I was introduced to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or RGGI for short. And despite the fact that every state around us is in RGGI, unfortunately Pennsylvania is not. Putting a cap on toxic carbon emissions is an extremely effective initiative to be a part of as it can help us lessen our contribution to climate change, but here are some numbers if you aren't convinced yet. Thanks to the initiative, carbon emissions from our neighbours in RGGI have fallen 90% faster than in the rest of the country. By 2030, Pennsylvania could reduce carbon emissions by 188 million tons, and to put that into perspective, that would be like taking 36 million cars and their pollution off of our roads. As another benefit, RGGI is expected to create 27,000 new jobs bringing 2 billion dollars into our state's economy within the next decade alone. The fact is, joining RGGI will greatly reduce the progression of climate change, and it will do wonders for the health and wellbeing of Pennsylvanian residents. We should be putting the health of our communities before pollution factories, and we should put our environment's well being before corporate interest. The most I can do is to tell you that Pennsylvanians and the Earth are suffering, but you have the power to make huge changes for the better. I, along with many other Pennsylvanians, are strongly in favour of RGGI. I hope that you hear our voices, and I hope that you work to uphold the right for all Pennsylvanians to breathe clean air. Thank you very much for the opportunity to attest on behalf of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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