



## RGGI Testimony

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to share my support of RGGI. My name is Heidi Shiver, I live in Doylestown Township with my husband, where we have installed 2 large solar arrays to cover our electrical needs as well as drive an electric car. Since I retired from teaching, I have shifted my focus to advocating for our environment. I served as Bucks County Audubon Society's Board President, where I led a solar tour, organized a Solar Energy Panel Discussion and helped raise over \$70,000 to install a solar array on their education center. I currently serve on Doylestown Township's Environmental Advisory Council and on the Bucks County's Ready for 100 Leadership Team.

I am testifying today because we are in a global emergency and we need to act immediately to turn human causing global warming around.

Climate change is here and I see its effects every day. I see increased intense rain and storm events causing major flooding, power outages and trees uprooted in my yard and throughout my community of Doylestown. I see unprecedented tornadoes with one touching down just a ½ mile from my home recently which devastated the neighborhood's mature tree overstory and damaged neighbors' homes as well as the Doylestown Hospital. I see unpredictable seasonal changes when my trees bloom too early, not in sync with when our native bees emerge or migrating butterflies and birds return. I see Monarchs starting too late for their fall migration desperately looking for nectar when flowers have already died back.

According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, since 1895 here in my county of Bucks, it has warmed twice the 1 degree Celsius average of the lower 48 states, being one of only 71 counties out of 3,107 counties in the entire United States to reach the +2 degree Celsius threshold. This is frankly outrageous and we have been dragging our feet too long. There is no time to waste and we need to act now.

RGGI provides an excellent opportunity to do just that and join other motivated Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon emissions immediately. By joining RGGI, we can reduce our state's carbon emissions by 188 million metric tons by 2030 which is equivalent to planting over 3 million tree seedlings for 10 years or removing 40 million cars off the road! This is barely 9 years away at this point! It will bring in revenue from fossil fuel polluters that can be invested into innovative energy efficiency programs, local renewable energy projects and create sustainable green collar careers and jobs in our communities, our counties and state.

By joining RGGI, it will propel Pennsylvania out of the 20<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as leaders that we can all be proud of, providing a sustainable future including a healthier environment and climate for our children and grandchildren and the entire ecosystem we share.

Thank you.