

Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

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Good morning. My name is Joan Vondra and I have lived in Pittsburgh for 32 years.

Back in 1987, when I was living in Rochester, NY and on the job market, I saw a job posting in Pittsburgh. I asked my fiance, who lived in Philly at the time, whether he thought I should apply.

“Pittsburgh?” he responded, “that's 'America's 'Most Livable City;' you should definitely apply!”

And that is how we came to be married, buy a home, and raise a family in Pittsburgh. If I had known at that time how polluted Pittsburgh—and all of Western Pennsylvania—was, is, and continues to be, I would never have applied for that job. I would never have had to apologize to my daughters for raising them in an environment that places their health at risk. I would never have sworn to my friends that I would leave Pittsburgh to retire with my husband in a state with less pollution. I wouldn't have needed to because I would never have moved here to begin with. Pennsylvania's CURRENT pollution is a dirty secret that noone wants its present and potential citizenry to know about.

And yet, I care enough about the future of this city—and state—to take the time and trouble to testify to you today how important it is that Pennsylvania join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Pennsylvania should have been part of RGGI when it was first undertaken. It is NOT to late to join now.

My goodness—almost 80% of Pennsylvania citizens support placing a limit on carbon pollution: this includes citizens who vote Democratic, Republican, and Independent. Is that or is that not a mandate from your voting public?

I personally know of three different families that have separately moved out of Western Pennsylvania, in whole or in part, because of the State's willingness to sell our air and water quality—in short, its own citizens' health—to power companies.

Some of us will simply leave. Some of us will make sure our friends and neighbors know how our State government has failed to protect us. Some of us will join the fight to bring the most basic pollution restrictions into State regulation.

RGGI has been successful in the 10 states already participating, cutting climate pollution nearly in half over the last decade and raising over \$3.6 billion to invest in clean energy and other purposes. Pennsylvania power plants emit more carbon pollution than those in the other 10 RGGI states combined.

This is YOUR opportunity to take responsibility for your citizens' health, their concerns, and their future. Please be responsible and vote to join RGGI.