



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 12:49 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:

Julia Nakhleh
 (julianakhleh@gmail.com)
 1403 Meadow View Ln
 Collegeville, PA 19426 US

Comments entered:

My name is Julia Nakhleh and I am from Collegeville, Pennsylvania, which is outside of Philadelphia. I'm testifying as a private citizen. Thank you for letting me speak today. I support Pennsylvania joining RGGI because RGGI will help reduce the impacts of climate change. Here in Pennsylvania we are already seeing the impacts of global warming. One of the many effects of climate change are extreme rain events, including Hurricane Irene, Hurricane Sandy, and most recently a derecho in Philadelphia causing power outages and storm damage. 2019 was a particularly rainy spring, causing standing water in many places including my backyard, causing me to spend thousands of dollars on stormwater mitigation. According to Climate Central, Philadelphia has had a 360% increase in heavy downpours since 1950. Because Philadelphia has a combined sewer overflow system, heavy rainfall increases the amount of sewage and other pollution filled stormwater runoff that end up in our rivers. RGGI is a big piece of the puzzle to help mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. RGGI will help the environment, the economy, and the health of Pennsylvanians.

RGGI has many ways to address the climate crisis. I want to focus on renewable energy. By requiring power plants to decrease their carbon dioxide emissions, it will encourage renewable energy, such as wind and solar. Current RGGI states have benefited from RGGI accelerating their deployment of renewable energy. As someone who has solar panels on their house and powers an electric vehicle, I have seen firsthand the benefits of solar energy. My solar panels have helped lower my electric bills. Solar installation by definition has to employ local workers, and in fact, jobs in renewable energy are one of the fastest growing in this country. These jobs create stable, high wage employment for blue collar workers. According to Forbes, by 2025 the cost to build an equivalent solar or wind facility will cost less than the operating cost of almost every existing coal plant in America. Renewable energy is the future. Solar and wind bring good paying local jobs, helps lower electric bills, and helps to green the electric grid, and RGGI will help accelerate this change. This will be very beneficial to Pennsylvania.

As a mother and an advocate for children, I am deeply concerned about the future we are leaving our children. RGGI will help make it a better future by reducing the impact of climate change.

Other states have seen the benefits of RGGI, now is the time for Pennsylvania to join this successful, market based solution. This will reduce greenhouse gasses, improve the environment and our health, and encourage renewable energy, which will bring local, good paying jobs to our citizens. RGGI will help transition the energy sector into the future. Joining RGGI is the right decision for Pennsylvania.

Thank You.

References

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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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PA Department of Environmental Protection

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