



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:

Meredith Bennett
 (bennettm1@duq.edu)
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 Trafford, PA 15085 US

Comments entered:

Pennsylvania has a wonderful opportunity to establish itself as a leader in the global response to climate change by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This initiative would have many advantages for our state, especially considering the current COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic serves as a reminder of the many threats to the health of Pennsylvanians. Climate change and greenhouse gas pollution pose unique threats to our health, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases associated with air pollution and increasing temperatures. Climate change will also increase the frequency of severe weather events that can threaten people's safety and livelihoods. Despite the devastation it has caused, the COVID-19 pandemic offers a unique opportunity to embrace renewable energies with urgency. The renewable energy industry is growing rapidly and will replace fossil fuels. It is simply a question of whether Pennsylvania will embrace this transition and reap the benefits of it. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative would create many clean energy jobs, which are already more abundant than fossil fuel jobs. The flexible nature of this initiative allows companies to choose the most cost-effective way to

reduce their pollution. It is important to remember that reducing pollution is not only the right thing to do, but also cost-effective. For example, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative would promote energy efficiency, which would in turn save money. These savings are especially crucial in the economic wake of COVID-19. The revenue would also allow Pennsylvania to protect the communities most at risk of the detrimental effects of climate change.

As a native Pennsylvanian, I see the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as a source of hope. Young people like me are looking to their leaders to take decisive action against climate change. By embracing initiatives like this one, elected officials can show that they take climate change and environmental degradation seriously, crises that not only threaten us, but generations to come. I am currently a senior at Duquesne University studying environmental science. I am also the Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal at Duquesne. As someone preparing to enter the environmental field, I enthusiastically support the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I believe it is a great opportunity for Pennsylvania to protect its citizens and the environment in our beautiful state.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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