



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 12:57 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-jflanaga@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:

Michael DiMonte
 St. Paul United Methodist Church (michaeldimo124@hotmail.com)
 622 Toftree Drive
 Cranberry Twp, PA 16066 US

Comments entered:

I am Michael DiMonte, I speak today on behalf of the Working for Justice Ministry of St. Paul's United Methodist Church – Clean Air Group, in Alison Park. I live in Cranberry Township. My home is just north of Pittsburgh, a few miles downwind of the coal fired power plant in Beaver, the nuclear power plant also in Beaver, and the Shell cracker plant under construction in Potter Township.

I speak to you today in support of RGGI. I favor the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and expanding the use of clean energy sources. To be clear my support does include expanding the use of

nuclear power. I do not fear it.

My comments likely will be a little different than others. I intended to elicit some images, to draw some parallels you will almost certainly agree with, and hopefully to communicate an impactful truth. I know you have heard lots of facts and data from others.

So, I'd like you to visualize a river in your mind's eye. It might be the Ganges River, in India. It

might be the Yellow River, in China. These are among the most polluted rivers in the world. Can you see them?

They are brown, there are unpleasant things floating near the surface. Can you smell them?

They stink,

don't they. We look at the communities which surround these rivers with pity, and we wonder "how did this happen, how can they live like this, how can they bathe and even drink this water?" I have seen these rivers myself, up close, and personally. The images I have just sketched for you are not fantasies, they are real, they are true.

Now I ask you to visualize the atmosphere which surrounds our earth. You may know that is it about 60 miles thick, or thin I should say. It is less than 1 percent of the diameter of the earth. Add to your image now the winds of the atmosphere, moving like a river over Pennsylvania. We all breath this air, we drink it in, don't we? And we are bathed in it all day, every day. So, I ask, why do we spew our waste, our pollutants of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, methane and other wastes into our air. It is much like the people living along the Ganges and the Yellow rivers. We have cleaned things up mostly so that we don't smell the stink of these wastes in our air, that precious river flowing all around us, but they are waste products, and they are pollutants. We know these things are true and that greenhouse gases are poisoning our environment as surely as the pollutants in the Ganges and the Yellow. It is just by a different mechanism.

So why would we continue to do this? We should not. We should not sacrifice many Pennsylvania citizens for literally a very few wealthy special interests. Coal miners and fossil energy workers can be redeployed if we focus our energies, resources, and human creativity in ways that the RGGI will enable.

I ask you to take the actions necessary to implement the RGGI program fully in Pennsylvania, and allow all of the clean energy sources to compete on a basis that values the quality of their products. They should compete on bases of cost and cleanliness, reliability, and stability. Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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