



Hi, my name is Molly, I'm from Exton, Pennsylvania in Chester County. I've loved growing up in Pennsylvania and miss it when I am away at school at American University in D.C. However, I am also disappointed that my state is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the country.

I and others I know have always tried to do what we can to reduce the negative impact we have on the environment because we've always been told it is our individual responsibility to protect the earth. I know personally that there can be a lot of guilt that comes with that narrative over not being able to do enough or making mistakes. I also know the feeling of helplessness when things fail to change, despite the number of plastic bags you refuse to use.

And after the year we've had with people consuming and driving much less, but air pollution remaining more or less the same and our earth on track to undergo catastrophic climate change, it is obvious why I and others feel so powerless with this pressure to individually save the planet. Even if we all drive less and eat less meat, it won't solve the climate crisis if power plants are allowed to emit **millions upon millions of tons of carbon dioxide every year.**

Our big emitters are substantially adding to the country's pollution problem and the US cannot be as clean and safe as possible until Pennsylvania, **the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the country,** addresses its own pollution problem. Joining RGGI could reduce our emissions by over **100 million tons by 2030.**

Reducing our pollution will also improve the quality of life for many in Pennsylvania. Cleaning up our air could prevent hundreds of deaths and thousands of hospital visits. Air pollution contributes to physical health problems as well as mental health problems. The anxiety and pressure people feel when facing climate change can sometimes be too much to handle. Additionally, not having access to clean air everyday can seriously take a toll on one's mental health and it is an issue many in PA deal with because of our big polluters.

There is a lot of pressure put on individuals to do the best they can to live a cleaner life. So why isn't that same, if not more pressure being put on big polluters if they are the ones contributing most to our pollution problem. By joining RGGI Pennsylvania can start putting people first and holding industrial polluters accountable for lessening the quality of life for everyone in Pennsylvania and putting all of our health at risk.

Thank you. |

**Commented [1]:** Great job! I thought your whole testimony was really compelling