



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 12:49 PM
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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 5 (1pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/10/2020 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:

Myrna Lippman Rubenstein
 (myrnalr@comcast.net)
 97 Broadwell Lane
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 US

Comments entered:

My name is Myrna Rubenstein. I am a resident of Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, and I live at 97 Broadwell Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. What follows is the oral testimony that I presented before the Environmental Quality Board of the Department of Environmental Protection on December 10, 2020, in support of Pennsylvania's joining RGGI.

Good afternoon. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. My name is Myrna Rubenstein. I am a retired editor and have lived in Pennsylvania most of my adult life. I am a resident of Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, and am well aware that the climate here is changing. This morning, when I looked at my rose bushes, they were still producing new leaves and rosebuds ... in the second week of December.

For many years, I was only vaguely aware of climate change. But while I was getting ready for

work one morning during the early 1990s, a segment on a TV news program caught my eye. I learned about steadily rising temperatures worldwide caused by fossil fuel emissions, by greenhouse gases, and that unless we take action, people, animals and plants would die off, that eventually our planet would become unable to support life. I thought, "That won't happen anytime soon. I don't have to worry about something that won't happen for hundreds of years." Was I wrong!

I started noticing that Central Pennsylvania winters were getting warmer and the summers much hotter. One year, my Pieris bush started blooming in mid-February. Then I found that I could no longer grow herbs on my deck because even when I watered them more and tried to shade them, the heat killed them. I started reading about children suffering from severe asthma, asthma aggravated by air filled with fossil fuel emissions. I heard that the Clean of Board of Central Pennsylvania was trying to take steps to reduce emissions polluting the air in Carlisle Borough, pollution worsened by trucks emitting tailpipe fumes while idling in stalled traffic on the town's narrow streets.

There are more examples I could give, but time is short. To keep it simple, it's all related to particulates and greenhouse gases caused by burning fossil fuels and releasing them into the air. And we must take steps now, not in 50 years, not in 100 years, NOW ... because if we wait, it will be too late ... too late for my grandchildren, and yours.

That's why we need to join RGGI. It is an important step that we can take toward reducing the fossil fuel emissions that will kill more and more of us unless we act. RGGI isn't new. It's been helping reduce emissions from electric power plants throughout the Northeast, except for Pennsylvania, for 11 years.

Statistics show that RGGI works and that the economies of those states continue to grow. We know that generating electric power is Pennsylvania's largest source of carbon pollution. Pennsylvania needs RGGI to help us lower our carbon emissions, improve our health and help save humanity. Thank you for your attention.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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