



Nora Johnson
6433 Nicholson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
crjndj@gmail.com
December 11, 2020

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Environmental Quality Board
RegComments@pa.gov

Comment on proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Good morning. My name is Nora Johnson, and I live in Pittsburgh.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI. I am speaking in favor of the CO2 Budget Trading Program and of Pennsylvania joining this multi-state agreement.

I'm taking a broad view this morning, and would like to speak to three aspects of our situation as we decide whether to enter this agreement with other states in our region. These three aspects are the strength of government, the power of markets, and the force of nature.

Looking first at government, we see that our governments here in Pennsylvania, from borough and township councils all the way through the state government to the federal government, are together a source of strength, created by the public for the good of the public. I grant you, this is often hard to comprehend as we follow current events. In the noise and conflict of decision-making at all levels, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that it is through our publicly elected governmental bodies that we shape our history as a nation.

A vital part of our decision-making is made up of the rules we use to promote peace and to steer productivity as we seek prosperity.

Markets are probably as old as humanity itself, and it's through markets that we have always supported ourselves, trading, selling, and buying what we need to prosper. Saying that markets are powerful is just another way to recognize that people experience freedom, a concept vital to our system of government, through the ability to trade, sell, and buy. Nor is it a paradox that through the ages we have not only created a vast array of markets, but also the rules and laws that govern them. These rules and laws allow markets to function, and so they are vital to freedom and people's sense of wellbeing.

RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, uses the strength of government and the power of markets, in this case the market for energy, to harness the force of nature productively. The regulatory framework that is RGGI creates a market for decreases in greenhouse gas pollution. We need this decrease to improve our climate. The improvement in our climate will improve our

health. Our better health will improve our economy. Jobs will be created. And the RGGI system itself will return revenue, increasing our ability to fight climate change, putting Pennsylvania on a path to a cleaner and healthier economy.

It's a good thing that my time to speak is limited: dealing in broad generalities as I have done here makes it easy to ramble, and I don't want to do that. I'll close by saying that I look forward to a cleaner Pennsylvania. In Pittsburgh, we suffer from poor air, which I experience frequently when I open my front door. My friends and their children who have asthma need cleaner air. Many people need jobs. RGGI will be a big help in so many ways.

Thank you.