



Stephen Hoffman

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

Olivia Ross Perfetti
(or.perfetti@gmail.com)
522 Ivy St Apt 3
Pittsburgh, PA 15232 US

Comments entered:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as a concerned citizen. My name is Olivia Ross Perfetti, and I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Today I want to talk about why I strongly support taking action on climate change by joining RGGI.

I wish I could remember the first time I learned about climate change and tell you about how this

was a pivotal moment in my life, but I can't. I am 23 years old and the reality is that climate change has been a real and present danger to our world during my entire lifetime.

So let me tell you, as a young person, why climate change is always in the back of my mind, and increasingly, the first thing I think of when I wake up in the morning: Unless we take bold action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, the effects of climate change will be catastrophic.

Under a business-as-usual scenario, by the end of the century our earth will be more than 3 degrees Celsius warmer than it is now. And that would have serious consequences for Pennsylvania.

Even though my part of Pennsylvania is safe from the wildfires raging out west and the hurricanes battering our southeast coast, we won't be spared from other climate-change induced catastrophes.

We'll see changing precipitation patterns, which will likely intensify flooding during the winter and spring and worsen drought during the summer and fall. In my city of Pittsburgh where it's so hilly, we'll have more injuries and deaths from flooding and the landslides that follow. People will

have to give up their homes and businesses, because what used to be a safe place to live will be flooded knee deep every time there's a thunderstorm.

Higher temperatures bring even more danger. Children, the elderly, and low-income communities are especially at risk for heat stroke and dehydration in hot weather. Warmer air will also increase ground-level ozone, which leads to smog. Pittsburgh already has some of the dirtiest air in the nation: Allegheny County is in the worst 2% of counties nationwide for cancer risk from air pollution. We cannot afford to make the air less safe to breathe here. I'm worried about people like my Dad, who has a lung condition that is getting harder and harder to cope with, every year that passes.

Changing precipitation and higher temperatures are just two of the ways that we'll feel the effects of climate change here in Pennsylvania. There are others like increased vector-borne diseases and impacts to agriculture and our food system, not to mention the effects of climate change that will be seen across the globe, including forced migration and political instability due to even scarcer resources.

And yet even knowing that this might be my future and my friends' future, I still have hope. We can still prevent the worst impacts of climate change, but we have to act now. Our leaders need to take bold action to cut greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy. And it's happening: little by little, across the country and the world, we're seeing programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative take effect. It just needs to happen quicker, and we need places like Pennsylvania to get on board.

As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gasses in the country, Pennsylvania joining RGGI would have a big impact. We know that RGGI has been successful in participating Northeast states, significantly reducing carbon emissions without hurting electricity consumers or the states' economies. Joining RGGI is the first necessary step to reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions. It's our responsibility to the world, and also to residents of Pennsylvania, who are already and will continue to suffer from our failure to solve this crisis.

I can't emphasize enough -- the clock is ticking to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, and I think about this every day. I've had conversations with friends wondering whether we should bring children into such an uncertain future, or whether they should pursue a job in New York if it's going to be underwater in twenty years. This is no longer a threat in the far distant future. Our lives -- the lives of generation Z across the world -- are in the balance, and we need our leaders to step up and take action by joining RGGI.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov