



## Stephen Hoffman

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**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:

Rajani Vaidyanathan  
 (rajani.vaidya@gmail.com)  
 941 Field Club Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238 US

Comments entered:

Thank you for hosting this virtual commenting period. I am Rajani Vaidyanathan and I live in Pittsburgh, PA. I am here to speak in support RGGI, as a resident of pa.

We have one planet to live in, PA is the third-largest greenhouse gas polluting state, owing to our coal and natural gas-powered electricity generation. We need to do our part, and RGGI is a beginning on that part we need to do. What we do here in PA or this region affects the earth, we may not be the only Earth-like planet that can support life as we need in this universe, but the earth is the only planet we know and have.

I had a child in 2003 and started to pay attention to CDC's Lyme disease maps in about 2005, for the next 10 years I saw that map get denser and denser. When my child was about 8 she got crippling joint pain. I found a tick on my dog. This is personal and very scary as a mother, climate change is a big reason for the Lyme population explosion year by year. My teenager

nowadays doesn't go out much and I don't have a dog anymore, but the tick maps I see get scarier and scarier. And speaking for moms, we are looking to Pennsylvania's leaders, agencies, and committees to take action on climate change by reducing carbon pollution and increasing clean and renewable energy, so all these side effects that harm our children can be reduced.

This is a proven cap and invest program, that has at least a 10-year history. We are not blazing a trail here, just following. This can help boost investment in our communities. We bear a heavy burden in terms of carbon, sulfur, and Nitrogen emissions compared to the other states currently in RGGI. RGGI states have reduced their carbon emissions and have returned over \$2 billion to those participating states. Revenue generated by participating in RGGI can be invested into state projects that reduce pollution including into communities that live near power plant pollution, programs for energy efficiency, renewable energy, other greenhouse gas reduction strategies, and can create local, family-sustaining jobs. We here in PA, can surely use the investment and the jobs.

As a mother and a resident of PA, I urge you, to limit carbon pollution from electric power plants and link the state to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to help clean up our air and protect our families from climate change.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak, Rajani

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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