



12/11/2020 Testimony in support of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Hi my name is Sarah Crothers, I grew up in Philadelphia and I am currently a resident of Reading, PA. I care about our state signing on to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative because of the current and future climate change issues we face not only as a community but also as a species globally.

Climate change needs to be addressed because we are already seeing the impacts. We, as humans, have the ability to continue going along with business as usual and continue to be met with dire consequences or we can use the information we have and make intelligent, informed decisions that protect our health and livelihood. I have recently developed asthma as an adult and I am increasingly concerned about Pennsylvania's air quality.

The greenhouse gases that are released into our atmosphere will continue to contribute to warmer and wetter weather and increased health issues for people. As we think about our most recent summers, the heat records we have reached and the increased floods and storm damage we have seen is concerning. It poses a safety issue to the residents of PA and it is expensive! We are currently living in "the good ol' days" in regards to climate. Just think, the hottest days we have experienced and the most powerful storms we have experienced recently are the best it is going to get.

In regards to where I live, asthma is extremely widespread in Reading. This is unfortunately common for low-income folks in the city, who are mostly people of color. City residents especially bear the brunt of not just the negative health effects but also the high costs of fossil fuels, paying a high percentage of income on energy costs. This is an issue now more than ever as asthma is a pre-existing condition that increases risk of serious illness during the pandemic. In addition, energy costs are higher than ever and being able to heat and light our homes is more important than ever as we are confined to our homes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

This is why I am here today urging Pennsylvania to sign on to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, without major revisions to the rules as proposed. This is a smart move that will help combat climate-driven disasters that we face.

We see time and time again that our most vulnerable populations are at risk. This is a moral issue when the most vulnerable populations such as the elderly, our youth and children, and low income communities do not always have a seat at the decision-making table. Our policy makers have an obligation to do what is best for the people of this state. Our future energy will come from clean, renewable sources and it is necessary for Pennsylvania to sign on to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.