



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 12:49 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:

Shawn Hogan
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Comments entered:

Good morning and thank you for being here today as we discuss Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I speak today as a lifelong citizen of Pennsylvania, a member of the youth-led climate justice movement called the Sunrise Movement, and a 25 year old hoping and fighting for a future where my needs, the needs of my generation, and generations to come, are met.

I urge the state of Pennsylvania to join RGGI as a preliminary step towards what our state must do to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change. It's clear that RGGI does two necessary things: reduce emissions, and fund projects that will create green jobs for PA residents. Results on these metrics from other RGGI states are an encouraging step in the right direction.

The mechanism of RGGI is important as well - it shifts the cost of pollution & climate change

away from our state's residents to the corporations that actually do the polluting. As our state, country, society faces questions about how to prioritize justice and right wrongs, I urge everyone here to sit with the fact that a child in our state currently pays the cost of pollution & greenhouse gas emissions with their health or their future, while corporations profit. Although only a first step, RGGI begins to right this wrong.

That all said, RGGI isn't perfect. Simply, it's not bold enough. I used to say climate change was an existential threat, but now, it's an existential reality. It's here. Unprecedented frequency and intensity of fires in the west and hurricanes in the south say that loud and clear. We need climate action from our state that is big, ambitious, and benefits all Pennsylvanians. Outlining that would take far more than my allotted time, so I want to specifically discuss two shortfalls of RGGI that the state legislature & governor must address immediately after signing onto RGGI. If you do not address the shortfalls of RGGI and improve upon them, you are failing all marginalized populations and youth of PA.

First, RGGI caps just carbon dioxide. While the most prevalent greenhouse gas, CO2 is not the only greenhouse gas emitting from the state of Pennsylvania. Methane, a gas that is 80 times more powerful than CO2 at warming our planet over a 20 year period, is of particular concern in our state. This is the gas that leaks from natural gas extraction & transmission. Additional policies must significantly curb, and ultimately eliminate, our state's methane emissions from energy.

Second, the implementation of RGGI, and all future climate policies, must prioritize the health and wellbeing of our state's most vulnerable residents. A just implementation of RGGI will closely monitor how pollution may shift geographically as carbon credits are traded and make bold moves to ensure all Pennsylvanians benefit from cleaner air and water. Additionally, the programs that RGGI will fund must prioritize workforce development, training, and employment in communities that have been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, current economic depression, and environmental injustice.

Joining RGGI is not the bold action Pennsylvania needs. We need even bolder solutions if we stand a chance at protecting all Pennsylvanians from the chaos the climate crisis threatens us with. But, it's a step in a better direction. There are playbooks, and data from 11 other states stretching back over a decade. We don't have to trailblaze to join RGGI. I urge the state government to join RGGI. But, even more importantly, I urge the PA legislature and governor to build more momentum towards bolder climate justice in our state. The youth of PA need more from you. Do not stop here. Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
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