



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; 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:

Valerie Viscusi  
 (Valviscusi@gmail.com)  
 116 Claremont Drive  
 Lansdale, PA 19446 US

Comments entered:

Hi, my name is Valerie Viscusi and I am a resident of Montgomery county, in the southeast part of the state. I am a master's student studying natural resources and environmental sciences. I am here today, like many others, to discuss the importance of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI. Throughout my studies, I have witnessed the effects of climate change. I have seen those around me struggle first hand with its detrimental effects. I have seen Pennsylvania's beautiful landscape and happy citizens depleting. We can reverse this.

RGGI has been around since 2008, twelve years ago, and we have yet to join this important program. We are the only northeast state to not join RGGI, which is quite an embarrassment. In 2019 Gov. Wolf issued an executive order directing PA to join. So why haven't we? It's not rocket science. Pennsylvania is the 4th largest emitter of greenhouse gases after CA, TX, and FL and a change needs to be made and it needs to be made now. In states already in RGGI, carbon pollution has decreased by 47%, which outpaces the rest of the US by 90%. Those are not small

numbers, and it is clear to see that states in RGGI are on track to greatly help our environment.

Pennsylvania residents are suffering due to carbon emissions and the pollution it is causing. Low air quality is causing respiratory illness, heart attacks, and cancer in Pennsylvania citizens. Those drastically affected by air pollution have to check air quality before they can even go outside. Why is oil and gas more important than human health? Why are we okay with letting citizens live a low-quality life that they cannot control? Air quality should not be a luxury for the rich.

It is not a matter of the economy and jobs, either. RGGI is proven to create jobs and generate billions of dollars of revenue in clean energy. RGGI is expected to create 27,000 new jobs in PA and put \$2 billion into our economy in the next 10 years alone. The argument of oil and gas bringing in more money is invalid and simply selfish. As well as the increase in jobs and revenue, electricity prices have fallen in RGGI states by 5.7% while the rest of the US has had electricity prices actually increase by 8.6%. Which would you rather have: higher electric prices or lower electric prices? The answer is obvious.

PA joining RGGI just makes sense. Why wouldn't we prioritize a future where your children have clean air? Why wouldn't we prioritize a future with less illness and death?. Pennsylvania joining RGGI will drastically decrease pollution that affects human health, our environment, and our climate. Joining RGGI promotes a future of success, a future of clean energy jobs, a future of great revenue, and a future of hope. It's time to step up, Pennsylvania. It's time to join RGGI.

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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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