



William B. Sabey, Jr., Plymouth Meeting, PA - Submitted as oral testimony during the 6pm 12 session of the PA DEP and Environmental Quality Board hearing

I support Pennsylvania in joining RGGI and I encourage this board to do all it can to move the process along as quickly as possible.

My interests in Pennsylvania joining RGGI are for the following benefits:

- Reducing our state emissions
- Improving our air quality and the resulting public health benefits
- Growth of green energy jobs and businesses as an economic driver
- Improvements to building and transportation energy efficiency
- Support the economically disadvantaged and underserved who are most impacted by the negative impacts of climate change and poor air quality

I'll just focus on a couple of these.

Regarding carbon emissions, PA was ranked 5th highest emitter in the country based on the 2017 Energy Information Administration (EIA) data. (1) (I heard others tonight state that PA is the 4th emitter, but I will use 5th based on my reference)

EIA also ranked Pennsylvania as the 2nd energy producer in the country in 2018. (1)

Being 2nd sounds like it might be a good ranking, but when you realize that we are the 5th carbon emitter, it not such a good thing for us to be such a large provider of damaging CO2 emissions energy to those who purchase from us.

And knowing the damage that CO2 emissions are causing to our planet, with the increasing intensity of rain and windstorms, wildfires, and drought; it is definitely not a good ranking for PA to be the 5th emitter of emissions in the US.

The hidden costs of emissions globally, for the economic impacts of these damaging weather and environmental events, are also called the Social Cost of Carbon. The Social Cost of Carbon has been estimated to be \$50 a metric ton of CO2 in 2020 and increasing to \$82 a MTCO2 by 2050, based on an Office of Management & Budget study initiated In 2009. (2)

The RGGI allowances estimated for emitters is a bargain compared to the real cost these emissions are causing to the planet.

Regarding public health, the American Lung Association has graded many of our PA counties on the severity of air pollution on the public. (3)

In the High Ozone category, 36 of our 67 counties received a grade. The other 31 did not have enough data or did not report. Of the 36 that received a grade: 12 received an A or B, 9 received a C, 6 a D and 9 an F.

Since we all know how good we feel breathing clean air I'd propose that PA is failing its public health with 24 of 36 counties (67%) not having the cleanest air possible.

Among the 25 national cities with the worst rankings: (4)

in the Ozone Category: Philadelphia, Reading and Camden were the 23rd ranking

in the Year-Round Particulates category: Pittsburgh, New Castle and Weirton were ranked 8th

and Philadelphia, Reading and Camden were ranked 12th

Also, Philadelphia was ranked as the 4th worst city in the country for individuals with Asthma in a 2019 evaluation by the Allergy & Asthma Foundation of America. (5)

The additional benefits of

- Increasing economic growth of green jobs and businesses
- Improved energy efficiency and conservation measures
- Economic assistance to the those in our community who are economically disadvantaged, underserved, and most impacted by the damaging effects of the climate crisis

are just as important as the health and global impacts of PA's carbon emissions and are documented by others advocating for RGGI.

On behalf of all our fellow PA residents and future generations, I ask the Environmental Quality Board and DEP to move to adopt and then implement RGGI as quickly as possible. It is time for Pennsylvania to become a champion in reducing emissions, cleaning up our air for our citizen's health, and transition to be the leading generator and supplier of clean, green energy to the rest of the country. We look forward to the time that we can take pride in being ranked #1 for our green and clean energy.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

1. EIA rankings - <https://www.eia.gov/beta/states/states/pa/rankings>
2. GAO Social Cost of Carbon - <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-20-254>
3. American Lung Association 'State of The Air' - <https://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/states/pennsylvania/>
4. American Lung Association 'Most Polluted Cities' - <https://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities.html>
5. Allergy & Asthma Foundation of America 'Asthma Capitals' 2019 <https://www.aafa.org/asthma-capitals-top-100-cities-ranking/>