



We are submitting joint testimony as medical specialists in pulmonary (lung), critical care (intensive care unit) medicine and environmental health. We conduct federally funded research at the University of Pittsburgh on how the lung responds to potentially toxic threats such as infection, cigarette smoke, and air pollution. We are deeply concerned about the health impacts of ongoing greenhouse gas emissions on the short term (disease) and long term (climate change) health of all Pennsylvanians.

Climate change primarily results from the combustion of fossil fuels. Although the procurement and utilization of regional fossil fuel resources has been critical to economic prosperity in Pennsylvania for generations, their continued combustion endangers our way of life. We, as physicians and scientists with expertise in lung disease and environmental health, are most concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change and air pollution on Pennsylvania's health. Fossil fuel related air pollution contributes to thousands of premature deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular disease such as heart attacks and strokes in Pennsylvania every year. Many more will suffer disease and early death due to the growing threat of climate change, which makes air pollution worse and contributes to other poor health outcomes. Furthermore, the burden of these health impacts weighs most heavily on hard-working Pennsylvanians, many of whom cannot easily afford the medicines, health care, and lifestyle changes needed to lessen the impact of climate change.

Therefore, we are writing in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Pennsylvania is the last of the states in the Northeast region to join RGGI, despite our air quality being some of the worst in the region. Providing companies with the incentive to transition to clean, safe, reliable sources of energy through RGGI carbon credits would support good careers, a stronger economy, and would save lives and make Pennsylvania healthier. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally E. Wenzel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sally E. Wenzel, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Bain". The signature is fluid and cursive.

William Bain, MD