



Alex Charlton DEP Testimony re: Proposed Rulemaking - CO2 Budget Trading Program

Good evening, my name is Alex Charlton, and I live in Springfield, Pennsylvania. I would like to express my strong support for Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI is a well-established and proven program that will provide Pennsylvania with both economic and environmental benefits that will extend well into the future.

As a former legislator in the Pennsylvania House, I understand that decisions have consequences and benefits must be balanced against the negatives. Oftentimes, initiatives that are good for the economy come at a detriment to the environment and vice-versa. RGGI is a unique exception that provides substantial benefits to both. By implementing a cap and invest program like RGGI, Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to clean up our environment while simultaneously providing growth and job opportunities across the Commonwealth.

RGGI represents a beacon to business that makes Pennsylvania an attractive location for opportunity and growth. Not only will joining RGGI help prevent job losses in the nuclear, solar, wind and hydropower industries as well as numerous service and technical industries that support these critical industries; but it will also attract new investment in clean energy projects. Pennsylvania joining RGGI has found support from a large diversity of businesses with strong ties to Pennsylvania including BP America, Shell, Exelon, Nestle, Mars Incorporated and National Foundry Products. While Pennsylvania's net economic gains are projected to be between \$1.3 and \$2.8 billion between 2022 and 2030, the most dramatic benefit is in our health-outcomes from reduced air pollution.

Recently, Dr. Wei Peng at Penn State University presented her research in RGGI's projected impact on air quality and health outcomes. As a result of using more precise modeling of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, Dr. Peng's research realizes a substantially higher cost-benefit evaluation as compared to the DEP's health co-benefit estimates. Where the DEP projected that Pennsylvania would realize a \$2.82 billion savings in cumulative health benefits, Dr. Peng's research projects a substantially larger \$12.2 to \$35.3 billion savings in cumulative health co-benefits by 2030.

But Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI is not just a benefit within our borders. Even when accounting for leakage, the entire PJM market would realize \$0.6 billion in new economic benefits and an additional \$10 to \$22 billion in health co-benefits. Globally, Pennsylvania joining RGGI would potentially produce \$1.9 billion in climate benefits. These numbers cannot be ignored.

RGGI represents a future in carbon-free energy production that protects jobs in the nuclear, solar, wind and hydropower industries and encourages growth and innovation, while simultaneously providing dramatic benefits to our air quality and the health of our communities. I am excited to see what the future will bring us with Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI.

Thank you for your time.

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