



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 2:54 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 8 (1pm) - #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:

Alexandra Dobell  
 (acdobell94@gmail.com)  
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Comments entered:

My name is Alexandra Colegado Dobell. I'm from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I'm here as a private citizen in strong support of joining RGGI. My middle name, Colegado, is my mother's maiden name as is custom in my Filipino culture. I'm here because I've learned a lot about how RGGI states have reduced their emissions. Today we have an opportunity to finally push one of the biggest polluters in our country into its role of responsibility, and I am speaking specifically about our state of Pennsylvania.

Not only is the U.S. one of the biggest polluters globally, but if we remember that China is a largely export-based economy with a huge population, we may want to look at this as a per-capita issue. Then if we don't include those countries in the Middle East which are producing fossil fuels (often for our consumption), I would assert that we, as American citizens, are the most responsible. Pennsylvania, the fourth biggest polluting state in our nation, is then also significantly responsible for what is happening in the world today.

So what is happening in the world today? Well, the Philippines experienced 6 typhoons in the last month. Several children died, and entire communities waited for help on their roofs during floodings. Normally the Filipino people rally around the Filipino spirit of resilience born out pride for dealing with similar things in the past, but this year the message from organizations on the ground was clear: "Do not glorify resilience. Declare climate emergency now".

And why does this matter to the state of Pennsylvania? Because as the postcolonial philosopher, Edouard Glissant, argued in his praise of "thinking like an archipelago": nothing is defined in isolation. Everything is defined in its relationship to other things. What happens in Pennsylvania today determines what happens not only in the Philippines, but every other country that is facing the consequences of our actions. The Philippines is ranked as the #2 country expected to face the worst of climate change. The U.S. is not even in the top ten, and yet its citizens are arguably the most responsible. And so to only look only at the effects of pollution on the citizens of Pennsylvania, such as myself, would be a grave mistake when considering the urgency and responsibility for Pennsylvania to join any initiative whose aim is to reduce its emissions.

As a member of the Philippine diaspora and believer of the Anakbayan movement, I must remind my American peers that what happens in Pennsylvania and more specifically, what is happening here today at the DEP, is related to what is happening in the Philippines. This is personal for me. I have two brothers Malcolm and Nickolaus Calacat Dobell, both under the age of 5. I have two grandparents Soledad and Elsie Borines. I have 5 uncles Earl, J.R., Raphael, Lark, and Daniel Colegado. I have 5 cousins Sophie, Adam, Leon, Isabel, and Israel-- most under the age of 10. And this is not even all my loved ones currently living there. I am not worried about their future, I am worried about their present.

I have done my duties as a concerned citizen. I have sorted my recycling; I have composted. I have purchased locally. I have lobbied respectfully. I am doing everything I can do. I need my state of Pennsylvania to back me up and do everything it can do.

As a Pennsylvania citizen and member of the Filipino diaspora, I am here missing work on unpaid time because Pennsylvania has failed to rise up to its role as a leader in this movement. I believe, just as I witnessed in the 2020 election, that the importance of Pennsylvania is not to be underestimated in its role for change globally. I support RGGI because it will push Pennsylvania to limit emissions and invest in clean energy, something that is long past due. I would like to thank Governor Tom Wolf for utilizing his veto power in order to enable this conversation today, may he recover quickly. And I would like to thank the DEP for listening to my comment.

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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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