



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of Pennsylvania joining RGGI.

I address the panel as a capitalist-environmentalist - with 50 years of entrepreneurship and 42 years as a climate activist.

Addressing the climate crisis is sadly 60 years late in large part because of the fossil fuel industry's influence on leadership. So instead of investing in clean energy production and encouraging emission reduction, they've opted to invest in political influence and climate denial propaganda.

Sadly, it has resulted, in large part, to the weakening of earth's ability to sustain a living ecosystem and we are very near the point of diminishing returns.

Ever since President Carter put solar panels on the White House in 1979 and formed a think tank to formulate a plan for a clean energy economy, the fossil fuel industry has blocked and debunked the existence of the climate crisis. Any resistance to PA joining RGGI is a familiar repeat of this scenario. And we, the citizens, are still paying the price - literally and figuratively.

PA, with the third largest carbon footprint in the nation has a moral, economic and constitutional responsibility to engage in all viable vehicles to address carbon reduction in order to insure every citizen the right to a healthy environment.

The economic, health and environmental benefits of essentially a cap and trade initiative like RGGI is only the first step to carbon emission reduction but it will prove that addressing the climate crisis in this manner will open more opportunities to build PA's economy, create jobs, reduce air pollution, and pave the way for a more sustainable future.

Ever since the election, PA has gained the nation's attention.

We must leverage that attention to addressing this existential crisis through climate leadership starting with our state joining RGGI.

We have run out of time to do otherwise.