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Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading

Hello, I'd first like to say thank you for this opportunity to voice my opinion. My name is Ella Graban. I am a sophomore in high school and a resident of Doylestown, PA. I am testifying as a private citizen, and I am here to give my full support for Pennsylvania to put a limit on greenhouse gas emissions. I am in favor of the proposed rule and Pennsylvania joining the RGGI. It is time we move forward towards clean energy and leave fossils fuels behind us, like the other states in the northeast who have joined the RGGI--New England, Delaware, Maryland, Connecticut, and more. These states have had tremendous success with this program, which is just one of the reasons Pennsylvania should join it. Besides cutting carbon emissions down, it has helped homeowners and other consumers receive more efficient energy, which in return saves them money. Also, the RGGI has created thousands of new jobs and added 4.3 billion dollars in economic value to the area it has been implemented. This is highly beneficial to all, and it is only logical that Pennsylvania joins this initiative. We must. Climate change is the biggest existential threat of the human race. And it is terrifying to already see the effects of climate change happening. There were and still are countless destructive wildfires around the world in Australia, the United States, the Arctic, the Amazon, and more. Also, there have been more frequent and stronger hurricanes hitting the United States. In fact, 2020 is the sixth consecutive year in which the U.S. has experienced 10 or more billion-dollar weather and climate-related disasters. These disasters and their effects will only get worse and worse if the world does not do something about it now. We are all inhabitants of this planet, and climate change will affect all of us, but not equally. It is selfish and immoral for our leaders to continually ignore the threat that is the climate crisis, because at the end of the day those that are wealthy can practically avoid the effects of climate change. Also, it is the wealthy and the big corporations who are responsible for majority of emissions. If their homes get flooded by the

rising waters, they will be able to recover. Low income communities will not. Underprivileged people have been and will continue to be disproportionately harmed by fossil fuels, air and water pollution (which cause countless health issues), and climate change. “Reggie” will bring about a better quality of life and well-being for Pennsylvania. By cutting down on emissions and pollutants, Reggie has shown that it has improved the physical health of the people in each area it has been carried out in. Additionally, I believe Pennsylvania joining Reggie will improve mental health as well. I speak for many young people when I say that I spend an exceptional amount of my time worrying about climate change. It is a major source of anxiety to think about how we are on the brink of astronomical disaster, we are running out of time to act, and our country is simply not doing enough right now. Implementing Reggie in Pennsylvania would be an incredible and necessary step in the right direction, and it will create hope to Americans. Reggie will bring prosperity and opportunity, benefitting both the economy and the planet. We must combat climate change together, for the survival of our people, of nature, and of our planet. The time to act is now. It’s the only option. For all these reasons, I strongly urge that Pennsylvania joins the RGGI. It is our responsibility. Thank you, I yield my time.

[The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Is a Model for the Nation | NRDC](#)

[Summer 2020's Arctic wildfires set new emission records - CNN](#)

[U.S. to shatter record for billion-dollar climate disasters in 2020 - CBS News](#)