



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 5:14 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-jflanagan@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:

Gabriela Snyder  
 (gabysnyder@yahoo.com)  
 608 Longchamps Drive  
 Devon, PA 19333 US

Comments entered:

My name is Gabriela Snyder. I am a private citizen of Chester County, PA, a mother of three boys and a marriage and family therapist. I have chosen to testify today because I am deeply concerned about the future for children and vulnerable populations, and I support PA making RGGI a reality for the people of this state.

As a therapist, I have worked with underserved communities who are disproportionately impacted by high levels of pollutants. This population often lives in closer proximity to polluting sources such as factories and power plants. Many battle unavoidable chronic diseases that exacerbate their daily social and economic struggles and make life even more difficult. These chronic stressors create greater risks for mental health problems. Ultimately, a failure to act to reduce polluting sources costs the state more money and resources on many levels, including healthcare and irreversible social impacts.

I am also concerned for the future of my children (and all children) who WILL be living the daily effects of the damaged earth we are leaving behind. In Pennsylvania we are already seeing the

effects directly via increased pests and storms that cause millions in damage and leave a sense of dread for homeowners. I have personally experienced this with flooding and downed trees in my own home from recent hurricanes, tropical storms and derechos, and I know dozens of other families in the same costly situation. Science tells us that as temperatures rise, storms increase in both intensity and frequency. My home, located at the top of a hill, inland and nowhere near a water source has all of sudden turned into a costly stressor requiring grading, French drains, gutter guards and sump pumps. As a result, every time it rains heavily, I get anxiety. We only have one chance to get this right, and we will not be able to turn back the clock. Once it's too late, it's truly too little, too late. In it's State of Climate Services Report, the WMO noted that "between 1970 and 2019, 79% of disasters worldwide involved weather, water, and climate-related hazards. These disasters accounted for 56% of deaths and 75% of economic losses from disasters associated with natural hazards reported during that period." The UN published a report just this week stating that we are woefully behind on reducing emissions to where we should be to avoid catastrophe. We cannot act as though it is not our problem any more. Tragically, much like our collective COVID experience, we are all in this downward trajectory together and the only hope is to act NOW, starting with those at the top and starting HERE in the state of Pennsylvania. I urge you to sign on to RGGI, without major revisions to the rules as proposed. It is unacceptable that we are the ONLY holdout in the region and yet the largest producer of carbon emissions. Let us stop pretending to care and put our money where our mouths are. Begin genuinely investing in reducing emissions and cleaner energy for all Pennsylvanians.

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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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