



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 10 (6pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/14/2020 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:

Kolya Shields
 (kmshields3@gmail.com)
 126 Highland Avenue
 Arlington, MA 02476 US

Comments entered:

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Kolya Shields and I am a college student living in the Boston area, studying geography and environmental science at Brown University. At our current pace of pollution and aggressive climate change, estimates show sea level rise will submerge much of Boston by the end of the century. Effects of climate change exist across the country and region -- Temperature rise means more pests and bugs across the Northeast, which means Pennsylvania will experience higher risks from the EEE virus, and more heavier rain events and heat stress will lead to declines in agricultural production across the state.

I want to be able to safely share this special country and region with my future kids, which means we need smart climate action right now.

Here in Massachusetts I'm lucky to be in a state that's working to ensure our future and protect the places that we care about. We've been part of the bi-partisan Regional Greenhouse Gas

Initiative for over 10 years, and this program now includes the rest of the Northeastern states, and soon Virginia as well! As part of this program and with further legislation, we've reduced carbon pollution in Massachusetts by almost a quarter, and by almost half in all the RGGI states. We've raised \$250 million dollars with RGGI, which has been used on energy efficiency investments that create hundreds of jobs, while helping Massachusettians heat their homes with less energy and lowered fuel costs, saving money. This has helped economic growth in RGGI states like Mass outpace the country by 31%, and even helps clean up our air, allowing me to walk out from my home and breathe deeply unafraid of smog and haze. Pennsylvania would benefit greatly from all of RGGI's successes!

PA is the 4th largest climate polluter in the country, which means that if Pennsylvania tackles its pollution, it can make a massive difference in fighting climate change and creating a safe, healthy future for all.

If Pennsylvania acts now and joins RGGI, the Commonwealth can give millions of young people around the state and country hope for the future. Hope that they'll be able to breathe clean air and show their future kids the places that mean so much to them. - large swaths of Philly, including many parts of South Philly and FDR park, could be underwater by 2100, and increased precipitation and flooding from climate change will cause millions of dollars of infrastructure damages in PA. Joining RGGI is the first step to letting me walk down the Boston and Philly waterfront and feel hopeful for our future, confident in our economy weathering the impacts of climate change, and secure in these places' safety."

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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