



My name is Margherita Abe, and I am a retired anesthesiologist who lives in Philadelphia.

I strongly support the Proposed Rule and Pennsylvania linking to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

For much of the past two decades I have observed, with growing concern and alarm, the neglect that our country and state have accorded climate change. The reason for my dismay at this situation is its capacity to inflict permanent damage on our citizens, especially our children and grandchildren into the future.

With increasing carbon dioxide and methane being spewed into the atmosphere, we face increasing temperatures that will impact on our lives in multiple ways. Philadelphia is one city that is expected to be severely impacted by higher summer temperatures. It is the largest poor city in the country, and a large part of its population lacks air conditioning in their homes. In addition, throughout the state increased levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants produced by the fossil fuel industry negatively impact human health. This leads to increased morbidity and mortality from heart and lung diseases as well as from increased incidence of cancers. Poorer neighborhoods are impacted more than more affluent ones in Philadelphia and elsewhere in the state. (nrdc.org/sites/default/files/climate-change-health-impacts-pennsylvania-ib.pdf)

Pennsylvania ranks as the fourth top emitter (after CA, TX, and FL) of fossil fuel related pollutants. If Pennsylvania joins RGGI and works to reduce its emissions, then this will have an outsized impact on the United States' levels of these pollutants. What Pennsylvania will receive in return for this action is an increased number of jobs related to the renewable energy industry (wind and solar), decreased energy costs for consumers, and a healthier environment for its citizens.

Joining RGGI is the right decision for Pennsylvanians.

Thank you.