



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 2:54 PM
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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:

Meghan Butler
 (butlerm6@duq.edu)
 458 Willow Ave
 Greensburg, PA 15601 US

Comments entered:

My name is Meghan Butler. Thank you for providing this opportunity to speak. I live in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and I am here today testifying as a private citizen in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as soon as possible.

I moved to Pennsylvania this past June to start a graduate program. Previously, I lived in Michigan and worked as a middle school teacher. Over just a short, 5-year career, I noticed something about my students. Before the school year started, I would go through each class roster and make a chart of students with any health conditions. As I completed this task each year, I noticed the number of students with asthma increase, especially when comparing my last year of teaching to my first year of teaching. What is interesting is that the average air quality in the United States was steadily increasing up until 2016 through 2018, when it started to decrease again; this period was during my time as a teacher. And, this happened in a state with better air quality on average than Pennsylvania. Now, I am not a teacher in Pennsylvania, so I

do not have access to the records I viewed in Michigan, but I would bet that there is a similar trend with the children in Pennsylvania and worry it will only get worse if action is not taken.

As I said before, I came to Pennsylvania to complete a graduate program. I am currently working towards my MBA in Sustainable Business Practices. I left my career as a teacher because I am concerned about the future of our country and the world. The effects of greenhouse gases on our air and environmental quality is staggering, and a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to the energy industry. I hope to be an agent of change within the business sector, showing companies that they can realize financial gain not at the expense of people and planet. There are energy companies around the U.S. that are voluntarily making changes to help reduce their greenhouse gas impacts. Unfortunately, there are still many that need a little, and more often a big, push in order to start taking responsibility for their share of environmental impacts and work towards a more sustainable future.

Either through voluntary or regulatory means, I hope to have a future that is better and more sustainable than today. That is why I support Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Thank you for your time

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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