



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:

Morton Rubenstein
(mjrmd6509@gmail.com)
97 Broadwell Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 US

Comments entered:

My name is Morton Rubenstein.
I live in Mechanicsburg, PA.
I support joining RGGI.

I'm a retired physician. I spent nearly all my medical career practicing pulmonary medicine and internal medicine in the Commonwealth. I also hold an MBA and worked in the insurance industry. I belong to several environmental groups, but today I'm speaking as a private citizen.

Pennsylvania makes an outsized contribution to the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change. We must control these emissions, and RGGI would help us do that.

RGGI would reduce carbon emissions from the energy sector. Pennsylvania's carbon emissions have declined, as cleaner-burning natural gas has replaced coal in power plants. But the

improvement will be temporary if we don't transition to renewables. Natural gas won't solve climate change – it's an improvement over coal but still generates carbon emissions. As RGGI decreases our dependence on natural gas, both carbon dioxide emissions and fugitive methane emissions will decline. Joining RGGI will serve as a market signal, letting Pennsylvanians know that we're serious about addressing climate – this will spur innovation in clean energy production and boost our economy.

Despite assertions that RGGI will hurt employment, data suggest that job creation in renewables occurs at a higher rate than in fossil fuel industries. Coal continues to decline for economic reasons. I favor subsidizing unemployed coal miners nearing retirement age, retraining younger miners, and allocating infrastructure projects to revitalize coal communities – not propping up the coal industry. Petroleum's future is also limited – the automotive industry has made a large financial bet on electric vehicles, so oil demand will fall as these new cars and trucks are rolled out over the next ten years. We'll need natural gas for a couple of decades, but its use will decline as it's replaced by renewables, which are now headed toward price parity with natural gas.

As a physician, I've seen first-hand the health consequences of fossil fuels – increased asthma case rates, exacerbations of other cardiopulmonary diseases, more vector-borne infections like Lyme disease, heat-related illness, and more. And believe me, there's nothing more heartbreaking than watching an asthma victim die in front of you despite your best efforts. Reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and particulates can save lives and reduce healthcare costs.

Let's be clear. Climate change is real, it's happening now, and it will get much worse if we fail to act. We need decisive action now. Other measures will be needed, but RGGI is an important step forward. I strongly recommend that Pennsylvania join RGGI.

This concludes my remarks.
Thank you for your time and your attention.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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