



Statement - DEP on Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
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Hello everyone, My name is Nadyenka McIntosh and I am very thankful to be here today to talk about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or, RGGI. I am a current student at Temple University in the college of Public Health. Even Though I am not the most well versed on all environmental issues today, I do know that everybody's health and safety rely on cleaner air initiatives like RGGI now more than ever.

As years go by we continue to push for stronger efforts to go green, become more environmentally friendly or couscous and sustainable and, RGGI does exactly that. As you all know RGGI is a program currently consisting of 10 mid atlantic and northeastern states and are working to reduce CO2 emissions in an economical way. However, today I want to highlight communities that have been consistently ignored and face the burdens of environmental injustices.

Low income and communities of color are constantly left out of the conversation when it comes to the environment and policies, although they are also some of the communities that are impacted the most. African Americans and other people of color are more likely to live in areas where dangerous waste pollutes the air because of neighboring facilities. In 2019 the American Lung Association warned people here in the Philadelphia area that the air they breathe is putting their health at risk. As a result of this pollution people in these communities are at higher risk for asthma, heart diseases, cancer and premature death. However, RGGI efforts have been shown to help combat this issue. A Columbia University study showed that the reductions in Air pollution contributed by RGGI was also able to reduce these impacts on children's health. These communities all around Pennsylvania can see great health benefits from this program, not just privileged communities who are lucky enough to breathe cleaner air. A sustainable future is not truly one if everyone is not accounted for.

I will also mention that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative seems to appeal to a future that a lot of American and Pennsylvanians are looking toward. RGGI is a cost effective approach that red, blue and purple states have implemented. As well as that fact that in recent polls 72 percent of Pennsylvania voters support RGGI and 80 percent want to see regulations reducing carbon dioxide emissions.