



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 2:54 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-jflanaga@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:

Nancy Harkins  
(nancyharkins651@gmail.com)  
1521 Woodland Road  
West Chester, PA 19382 US

Comments entered:

My name is Nancy Harkins and my husband and I live in Westtown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Thank you for considering my comments. We are very concerned with the continuing contamination of air and water quality in Pennsylvania and the devastating consequences to human health caused by greenhouse gas pollution and climate change. We have the dubious distinction of leading the nation in premature deaths due to air pollution and we are exporting our contaminants to neighboring states. Now is the time for aggressive action if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change including extreme weather events, even worse than we are already experiencing. Pennsylvania's electric power sector is currently the fifth dirtiest in the nation. And, as the third-largest greenhouse gas polluting state in the nation, Pennsylvania bears an outsized responsibility to address climate change. Pennsylvania has a moral obligation to step up and be a national leader in reducing carbon pollution from power plants that causes climate change and begin a just transition with the bipartisan program the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

(RGGI). The RGGI is the rare initiative that enjoys bi-partisan support, is supported by 7 of 10 Pennsylvania voters and is supported by businesses ranging from Mars Inc. to Schneider Electric. Make no mistake the RGGI is NOT aggressive action but it is a step forward. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is one of the greatest threats we face. As we have long known, it is occurring because of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels like coal, natural gas, and oil. We've long been seeing the effects here in Pennsylvania, like stronger storms and more flooding. It is long past time for Pennsylvania to take common sense measures to address the imminent dangers of climate change and begin a just transition for workers and communities who continue to be ravaged by the oil and gas industry. Once again Pennsylvania is lagging neighboring states. RGGI states have reduced overall carbon emissions by one-third over the past decade. RGGI has returned more than \$3 billion to participating states to be used in ways that each individual state determines, most often for clean energy/efficiency projects. Pennsylvania will also be healthier thanks to RGGI: reduced pollution will produce \$6 billion in health benefits through 2030, more than 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and more than 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis among children. You don't need me to quote you chapter and verse on all the devastating effects that Pennsylvanians are already experiencing due to carbon pollution and climate change. You just need to take long-overdue action. It's imperative for Pennsylvania to tap into RGGI's record of success and reduce its carbon pollution. Please fulfill your mission to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvania citizens through a cleaner environment. Our children's lives are depending on it. Thank you.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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