



**Public Comment: Proposed Rulemaking: CO<sub>2</sub> Budget Trading Program**

I am writing to submit my comments during the PA-DEP comment period in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative [RGGI].

The impacts of the climate crisis are becoming more apparent every day, and during 2020 we saw increased wildfires, an extremely active Atlantic storm season and extreme summer heat, all driven by the changing climate. Graduating college in 2020 into an uncertain world with a collapsing climate has brought feelings of doubt and fear when I consider the future and what life might look like in ten, twenty or thirty years. By joining RGGI, Pennsylvania will take a step forward in ensuring a safe and liveable climate for future generations.

As the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to be a leader in implementing climate solutions through reducing emissions and working towards a more sustainable economy. Joining RGGI will have a long lasting effect not only on the environment, but also on the economy by creating jobs in the renewable energy sector.

RGGI has already been proven to be a successful program, with carbon pollution in participating states decreasing by 47% from 2008 to 2018. This outpaced the rest of the country by 90%, and PA has the opportunity to join these RGGI states and see carbon emissions be reduced by 188 million tons by 2030 -- a number equivalent to taking more than 36 million cars off of the road.

Not only will joining RGGI help combat climate change, but it will also help to reduce air pollution and significantly improve air quality. During a public health crisis that is driven by a respiratory virus that has already been shown to heavily impact communities with poor air quality, we can not turn our backs on an initiative that would significantly help improve the air quality across Pennsylvania.

Through this program Pennsylvania can take on climate change and air pollution, and also help inject money into the economy through creating renewable energy jobs. It is imperative that we create a safe and liveable climate not only for us, but for future generations, and joining RGGI is the first step for Pennsylvania to achieve that goal.

I urge you to approve the plan for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Rachel Vresilovic