



## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 5:14 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; 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 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:

Russell Golman  
 (rgolman@gmail.com)  
 4212 Saline Street  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217 US

Comments entered:

Hi, my name is Russell Golman, and I live in Pittsburgh. I am speaking as a private citizen today in support of participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I am a professor of behavioral economics and decision science at Carnegie Mellon University. I do research on risk taking, information search and information avoidance, behavioral game theory, and other aspects of decision making in a variety of social and economic situations. I teach strategic decision making and decision analysis. It strikes me that the decision to participate in this initiative is exactly the kind of decision I'd want my students to be able to analyze. And, really, you don't need to be a professor of decision making to see that it's obviously a good idea. This is intro-level stuff.

The science is conclusive that burning fossil fuels emits pollutants that contribute to climate change and harm our health. Global warming poses serious systemic risks to our economy and to our national security, and is likely to have disproportionately harmful impacts on the most vulnerable populations. And, even setting that serious risk aside for a moment, high levels of

other air pollutants from CO2-emitting power plants lead to health issues like asthma, COPD, and other respiratory diseases. In Econ 101, you'd call emitting this pollution a negative externality. In everyday life, you might call it being a bad neighbor.

There's a straightforward solution here. Make power plants internalize the costs that they have been imposing on everyone else. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative does exactly that. Polluters have to purchase allowances for their pollution in a regional auction that efficiently sets their price. The amount of carbon pollution is capped, so we get less pollution and better health. And the revenues generated from the auction reduce the tax burden on all of us. Power plants, trying to reduce their costs, find alternative ways to generate electricity that don't create so much pollution, for example with wind and solar energy. As they invest in renewable energy, they create thousands of high paying jobs and help clean up the air we breathe, resulting in nearly \$5.7 billion in health benefits and healthcare savings for members since 2008. It's a win-win.

I have two young children. For the most part, we love living in Pittsburgh. We hike in Frick Park and Ohiopyle. We swim at Sandcastle, and Raccoon Creek, and the Clarion River. We enjoy the outdoors. Except when the air quality is so poor that we can't. I don't want my kids suffering from asthma. I don't want anyone's kids suffering from asthma, or any of the harmful consequences of air pollution or climate change. Let's leave our kids a cleaner, safer place to live.

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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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