



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation by Scott Brown - December 1

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- Hello, my name is Scott Brown and I live in the historic village of Chadds Ford in Delaware County Pennsylvania.
  - Thank you to Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department Environmental Protection for holding these public hearings and providing the opportunity to share my thoughts as a citizen of the Commonwealth. I'm here today to strongly voice my support for Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or RGGI.
  - The main reasons I support RGGI are:
    - **Health** – the impact of greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels to produce electricity and air pollution from the by-products of the emissions from these power plants has been proven to by the Federal government and independent groups like the American Lung Association to directly lead to lung disease, asthma, and premature death. This is magnified with the COVID 19 pandemic that directly impacts the respiratory systems and those with pre-existing conditions like to impacts listed previously.
    - **It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth to ensure clean air for its citizens.** The federal government (EPA) and courts have found that carbon emissions are a pollutant, so the Governor and the DEP have a responsibility to the citizens for the Commonwealth to take action to reduce the pollution.
    - **Climate change is real** – many respected experts, including Pennsylvania institutions like PSU and CMU agree that climate change is resulting in more severe weather, drastic temperature swings, increased wind speeds and rising water levels our impacting our everyday lives and will only get worse for the next generation if action to slow this down is not taken.
    - **Fairness** – fossil generators are allowed to dump their waste (GHGs and other air pollutants) in the air we all breathe and pay no fees or consequences – this is a form of free ridership that we the citizens of the Commonwealth subsidize with our health, unrealized revenues and loss of progress to slow and reverse climate change. Also, RGGI means Pennsylvania's four nuclear power plants have an opportunity to compete on a more level playing field by requiring that polluting fossil fuel plants pay some of the social and health costs of carbon emissions they release into the air.

- On the issue of fairness, there are two primary options for reducing emissions. (1) “reward the clean generators” – PA does that now with a renewable energy portfolio standard to mandate clean renewable energy but it failed to do this for nuclear generators in Pennsylvania that led to the unfortunate action of prematurely closing TMI in 2019, one of the largest sources of zero emissions energy in the state. Or (2) “charge a fee to polluters for the right to dump their waste in the state” - This has been shown to be more efficient with a market-based program that auctions off the permission to pollute and uses the funds to invest in clean resources. RGGI is a form of option 2.
- Why RGGI for Pennsylvania?
  - Market based approaches have been shown to be effective in reducing air pollution at the regional level;
  - Analysis shows that CO2 emissions from power plants in the RGGI states have fallen 90% faster than in the rest of country;
  - Regional optimization – RGGI is in place in DE, MD, NY and recently NJ and VA. PA will benefit and strengthen the regional solution like what we seen in other intrastate cooperative efforts;
  - The benefit to cost of RGGI has been positive for all states that have joined RGGI. The Analysis Group estimated the net present value of RGGI between 2015 and 2017 to be over \$1 billion dollars – Pennsylvania citizens deserve a share of these types of benefits.
- For these reasons and more, I ask the Department of Environmental Protection to move Pennsylvania forward on clean energy by entering our Commonwealth into RGGI.
- Thank you for your time and consideration.