



Hello I am Steve Clark, an electrical engineer from Haverford townships outside Philadelphia. I am speaking in support of RGGI rulemaking, unaffiliated with any organization. I have four children and am testifying because of them.

When they were younger, I was their Cub Scout pack leader and have many treasured memories camping with cubs and parents in PA's natural beauty. One of Scouting's essentials is **Leave no Trace**, in short, leave the world the same or better condition. The smallest piece of trash is removed before we leave to honor those who will come next.

But what if a group went camping and completely trashed the site for thousands of years to come? This strikes us as horrific, yet this is current "business as usual" outcome of burning fossil fuels

Today's PA electricity generation is the opposite of **Leave no Trace**. Our grid is biased to burning fossil fuels which emit heat trapping CO₂ which remains in the atmosphere for thousands of years, long after a coal or gas plant closed.

The price of electricity from fossil fuel plants is currently artificially low, since it does not include these 'hidden' costs to current and future generations. This is fundamentally unfair: the operators of these plants get to claim the profits NOW yet everybody else pays the price of heat trapping CO₂, health risks from NO_x, SO_x and particulates now and into the distant future.

For basic fairness, the price of this electricity needs to have a portion of these 'invisible' social costs incorporated. This would produce a more accurate price signal when comparing to clean electricity sources.

RGGI will be an important first step for PA joining neighboring states in climate leadership for these reasons:

- 1.) Currently PA electricity plants emit almost as much CO₂ as plants from the other 9 RGGI states combined.
- 2.) Electricity generation is the second largest source of CO₂ emissions in PA.
- 3.) If PA were a country, it currently emits more CO₂ than 172 of the 194 signatories of the Paris Climate accords.
- 4.) PAs aging nuclear plants are facing price pressure from natural gas plants. Replacing nuclear with artificially cheap natural gas would lock in new massive CO₂ sources for decades. This would be catastrophic & no different than the hypothetical campers trashing their sites for the next thousand years.

The cost of electricity generation must reflect the social cost of carbon.

In short, I support RGGI for the reasons of basic economic fairness and a Scouts desire to **leave no trace** for our children and their children.

I yield my remaining time. Thank you,

Steve Clark