



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 5:14 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-jflanagan@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:

Tom Pike
 (tom.r.pike@gmail.com)
 4703 Stewart Court
 Murrysville, PA 15668 US

Comments entered:

Good evening. My name is Tom Pike, and I was born and raised in Murrysville, in Westmoreland County.

As a child, when the forest behind my home was threatened by development, I watched my mother organize our neighbors to resist it. Today, the forest still stands because of her work. I was taught that my community valued self-sufficiency and responsibility, and that these principles applied equally to our stewardship of our planet as they did to our family's checkbook.

But while my family worked to minimize its own impact, the corporations in our backyard did not. I watched in frustration as new fossil fuel power plants were built throughout my lifetime, even though, for decades prior to my birth, the fossil fuel industry understood the impacts of what it was doing. Leaked papers dating back to the 1960s show that oil and gas company scientists accurately projected the scale and impacts of climate change, and then systematically

sought to mislead the public and buy enough political power that they would never be held accountable.

I understood, even as a child, that the impact of my own personal contributions would be meaningless if utilities kept building new coal plants. I remember realizing in college that every webpage I refreshed and every email I sent was powered by someone who got black lung for it.

In the 19th century, my hometown, Murrysville, was the site of the construction of the first commercial gas well in the country. This is treated like a local point of pride. The gas well is even emblazoned on the city seal.

It baffles me why my community would be proud of that. The Haymaker Well caught fire and burned, in one of the worst manmade disasters to ever strike the region. The flames could not be extinguished; it burned for many months. The flames rose so high into the sky that they could be seen from Pittsburgh, 20 miles away.

You would think we would have learned from that. Yet a century later, in 2015, in Los Angeles, the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility blew out, poisoning the air for tens of thousands, forcing evacuations, and spewing 100,000 metric tons of methane into the atmosphere. Methane is 84 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. The facility still has not been shut down.

We have learned nothing. We have legislated nothing. And the profit-driven fossil fuel industry, which began in my literal backyard, has spread like a cancer across the world.

As I speak, giving this public comment, my computer is powered by a coal and gas fired electric grid. Someone got black lung so I could give this testimony.

I urge that we immediately join RGGI, and that the conversation quickly move on to the next climate reforms we must pass. The state of Pennsylvania has played a key role in allowing the fossil fuel industry to destroy our world. We must work to redeem ourselves, and that work must begin today.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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