



## Stephen Hoffman

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

**Testimony name:** Public Hearing 8 (1pm) - #7-559  
**Testimony date:** 12/11/2020 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:

Art Leopold  
 (art\_leopold@hotmail.com)  
 5341 Apple Grove Ln  
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Comments entered:

Hi, my name is Art Leopold. I live in Erie, Erie County, PA. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Proposed Rulemaking: Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program aka RGGI. Although I belong to various local and regional environmental groups, I speak today as an environmental activist and private citizen. I will let others offering testimony expound on the scientific merits involved, I want to speak about the people of PA.

The PA Office of Environmental Justice is a watchdog for designated areas that encompass low-income communities and communities of color. One of the primary tasks that are their responsibility is to minimize and, if possible, avoid adverse impacts to these citizens. Also, they must involve the public in gathering information about businesses that may influence the well-being of the residents in the areas and also publicly disseminate promptly any notices that are pertinent to the impacted communities. The Environmental Justice Office, realizing the disproportionate harm from historically intentional neglect that these communities have

suffered, must consider equitably the economic benefits that are deserved by these groups.

Hence, one of the advantages that may accrue from joining the RGGI effort is the possible distribution of resources to the member states that will then be available for the benefit of our local communities, such as the Environmental Justice areas that are so deserving of the investment. I hope that the Commonwealth will give favorable consideration to the request to join the ten other New England and Mid-Atlantic states in an initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector while generating opportunities for economic growth for the citizens of Pennsylvania!

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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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