



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:56 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-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 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:

Carol Buskirk
 (cmbuskirk@verizon.net)
 6908 Fox Hill Road
 Harrisburg, PA 17112 US

Comments entered:

I'm speaking in support RGGI. My personal concern is the health effects of air pollution in our region. I want to tell you about my own family's experience:

My first grandchild was rushed to the Emergency Room 3 times in her first year for breathing problems that didn't respond to home treatment. The family doctor simply attributed her condition to "life in our region."

Then, 3 days after her first birthday, there was a night when nothing could be done to relieve her wheezing. At 11:30 pm she was rushed to the ER at the nearby west shore hospital. After 30 minutes of hospital-grade treatment, her parents were told she needed to go to the Children's Hospital at Hershey Medical Center right away! Before they knew what was happening, paramedics appeared and gently strapped baby Thea to an adult-size gurney and whisked her away.

Four days later she was released with a referral to a pediatric pulmonary specialist. The practice was so busy it took one month to get an appointment. On the day of her appointment, my

daughter waited 2 hours after the appointment time to see the doctor. She was told that desperate parents often waited longer. Thea had mild steroid treatments for the next 4 years to strengthen her lungs. When her little brother came along 2 years later and had the same breathing difficulties, he received the same special treatments. My family was lucky to have access to resources to address their problems. They estimate their out-of-pocket expenses, with health insurance, for each of the children's general and specialist doctor visits, ER co-pays, and medicines during their first 4-5 years at \$12,000. This doesn't include transportation and potential lost wages of their parents. In PA we don't own the air that surrounds us. Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels in PA affect us and our neighbors. Adopting RGGI is not a solution to all of our air pollution problems, but it moves us forward toward cleaner air by imposing real costs on carbon emissions from power plants. In addition it will provide investment in further reduction by promoting more efficient and sustainable clean energy. Thank you for hearing my testimony 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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