



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:

Catherine Holt
 League of Women Voters of Clarion County (foltz-holt@juno.com)
 174 Westwood Drive
 Clarion, PA 16214 US

Comments entered:

Good Afternoon,

I am Catherine Holt, a native Pennsylvanian who has lived in Clarion County the last 18 years. I am thankful that I have the opportunity to testify in favor of joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I am speaking not just for myself but also for the local League of Women Voters of Clarion County. Addressing the Climate Crisis is one of our top legislative priorities.

In our western states, extended droughts, and higher average temperatures are contributing to more and bigger wild fires. These fires are torching the homes of people and scorching the habitats of the animals that range there. People in our Gulf and Atlantic coastal areas need to worry not just about hurricanes but also sunny day flooding. My son was driving to his house near Norfolk, VA on flooded streets. The wave from a truck flooded his engine. Lucky for him, insurance paid to replace his hydrolocked engine.

Many believe that here in Pennsylvania, we live in a "Goldilocks" location that will not suffer many of the worse effects of climate change. Some claim because we probably won't be torched, scorched, or flooded out; our interests don't align with those facing these risks. We have friends and family in areas that will be or are being hit harder. For our area, League members came up with a significant number of ways that the warming climate is already affecting us.

Heavier-than-normal rain has become more common. Some Pennsylvania municipalities have been hit with 2 or 3 "100-year" events in one summer. Local League members have had their roads washed out. Farmers have had to delay spring planting, struggled to identify enough drying days to make hay, and tapped their sugar maples as much as a month earlier. Municipalities need to think differently about storm water management, zoning, development, and emergency response.

Invasive plants that a couple decades ago couldn't survive our winters are becoming a problem. Bamboo wrecks havoc as it grows through foundations. Trying to dig it out is frustrating and time consuming.

My personal nemesis made worse by the warming climate is the tick. Mild winters have allowed their population to explode and lengthened the time the ticks are active. Pennsylvania is a leader in Lyme disease infections. Our ticks also transmit a half dozen other diseases. Fear of these TBDs keeps me diligent in doing tick checks after walking in our lovely woods. It keeps others from enjoying our natural resources.

Over the rest of my life, (possibly 2-4 decades) these problems of invasive species, overly robust weather events, and others will just keep getting worse no matter what we do because it takes a long time to turn around a gigantic system like planetary climate, but The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA assures us, we can slow the rate and limit the amount of global warming by reducing human emissions of heat-trapping gases and soot (black carbon).

Just like with the tick problem, an important step in addressing the climate crises is awareness. Just hosting testimony about RGGI has motivated dozens of people to research and think about the issues. The fees that greenhouse-gas producers will pay once we join RGGI will focus attention on reducing the emissions.

Joining RGGI could act as a signal to change in other ways. It could affect the fields that we encourage our children or grandchildren to go into. Schools may offer programs geared to preparing students to work in fields that will help our society and our global community to mitigate the worse effects of the climate crisis. Joining RGGI will influence both individuals and businesses to invest in assets with smaller warming potential.

We will need to reduce emissions of methane, refrigerants, and soot as well as carbon dioxide, but joining RGGI to help reduce CO2 is a good step forward.

Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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