



“Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation”

Daniel A Sutton

Wynnewood, PA, 19096-2522

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

I’m a 70 year old white male, and after a career as a computer software architect, I am now retired. I am married with four kids, all of them are married. I have four grandchildren who I very much want to be able to enjoy our earth from the oceans and lakes to the forests and mountains. I have camped in the Canadian Rockies, western prairies, maritime provinces, great lakes and our mid-Atlantic states. I’m looking forward to hiking and fishing with my grandchildren. In south eastern Pennsylvania we used to get 3feet of snow in a single storm. Now we rarely get any snow.

Since I moved to Pennsylvania, I have had asthma, allergies and unknown irritants which cause difficulty breathing and dealing with continuous stuffed, infected sinuses. Otherwise, my wife and I consider ourselves to be very privileged and we are doing everything that we can to reduce our carbon footprint, simply because we can and too many people cannot afford to do it. The insulation of our home is up to standard. We’ve eliminated our oil furnace and our energy consumption is only wind generated electricity.

What if the Pennsylvania government could help its residents to all do this. The states that already participate in RGGI are positive examples. They have better achievements than Pennsylvania. They’ve raised almost 3 billion dollars by being in RGGI. They’ve created more jobs with economic growth 31% higher than rest of country. These states

have reduced electricity costs which is a must for our financially challenged residents.

I volunteer with a church group to repair homes for people who cannot afford to do so. While repairing a dangerous front porch, I noticed that two windows had no glass, just clear plastic taped in place. Neither the owner nor our church group could afford to put in new windows. With RGGI, our government would have millions of dollars more that could be used to fight climate change by assisting our financially challenged resident by ensuring they had LED lighting, low-flow water fixtures and that their homes are fully insulated. Insulation prevents energy exchange so that homes cost less to heat or cool and reduce the carbon footprint to heat or cool.

Our government could promote migration to green energy production within our state by supporting rooftop solar panels or distributed energy storage or could cap those obsolete gas wells leaking methane into our atmosphere. We could provide construction incentives for green, cool roofs and by so doing encourage these carbon reducing solutions to proliferate. RGGI will empower our government with additional funds while enjoying healthier residents and lower medical costs.

The Pennsylvania constitution guarantees clean water and air for all residents, yet our government is not achieving that. Personally, I need cleaner air and our joining RGGI will help that.

I beg you to support Pennsylvania joining RGGI so that we speed our state's conversion from fossil fuel to clean energy, cleaner water, cleaner air and healthier residents.

Thank you for listening.