



## Stephen Hoffman

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

**CAUTION: \*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\*** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



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:

Dara Bortman  
 (dara@exactsolar.com)  
 1655 Fairfield Rd  
 Yardley, PA 19067 US

Comments entered:

My name is Dara Bortman. I live with my husband and two children at 1655 Fairfield Rd, Yardley, PA in Bucks County. I am testifying today as a private citizen in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) which will reduce air pollution, improve the health of Pennsylvanians across the state, incentivize investment in and adoption of clean energy technologies, allow PA to upgrade its infrastructure – increasing resiliency, stability and security, and create tens of thousands of good paying jobs.

RGGI is a win in so many ways for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians.

While RGGI is not and never was meant to be an economic development program, the states that have been participating in RGGI for the past decade have reduced their emissions levels by almost 50% - outpacing the rest of the country by 90%. This has significantly improved public health in the participating states, and also in PA already. At the same time, electricity prices have FALLEN in participating states, while prices have increased in the rest of the country, saving their citizens money – an estimated \$2.5 billion so far. And RGGI is estimated to have

grown those states' economies by over 1.4 billion dollars in net positive economic activity and 14,500 new job- years. If PA joins RGGI, it is estimated that PA will see a net increase of 30,000 job-years and a \$1.9billion increase in gross state product.

RGGI will provide the funds to help our communities with the inevitable transition to 100% clean energy. PA is already seeing that transition happen as coal plants close, sometimes ahead of schedule, because they can't compete with now cheaper energy options, even with the subsidies they still enjoy from federal and state governments embedded in their business models. In some places, it is now cheaper to build a new solar farm, than to maintain and operate an existing fossil fuel generation plant. Once a solar power plant is installed, there are no moving parts and no further fuel exploration, digging, transporting and burning required. It just sits in the sun, uses free sunlight as fuel, and generates electricity for 30 – 40 years. As solar and wind technologies continue to get more efficient and less expensive – as technologies inherently do, the cheaper energy sources will eventually win. It's no longer a question of adopting clean energy just because it's better for the environment – clean energy is less expensive , and continued investment in fossil fuel infrastructure is akin to throwing money down the drain – especially at a time when more organizations are committing to divest from fossil fuels altogether and recognizing the need to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Additionally, integration of clean energy into energy markets has been easier and more successful than anticipated . It has been found that energy markets with higher proportions of clean energy resources become MORE resilient, MORE reliable, and MORE secure with LESS EXPENSIVE energy for consumers. For these reasons, legislators and constituents who support free markets and capitalism should also be strongly in favor of supporting a quick transition away from expensive fossil fuels and toward clean energy.

In conclusion, while a transition to clean energy is inevitable, a QUICK, JUST and equitable transition is not. RGGI can provide the funds to ensure that the transition in PA lifts all boats, and ensures that all communities have the resources to participate in and benefit from the clean energy revolution. And RGGI can ensure that the transition happens at the pace needed to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

RGGI can be a key part of moving PA in the right direction – and be a win for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.

---

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

---

Jessica Shirley  
Director, Office of Policy  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Office: 717-783-8727  
Fax: 717-783-8926  
ecomment@pa.gov