

Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program 12.11.20

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My name is David McCullough. I'm an Evangelical Pastor now living in York, PA. I've led congregations in Clearfield, Bellefonte, and Montoursville where fossil fuels are important for jobs and the economy. I currently serve with a large Evangelical Church with fifteen satellite campuses scattered over Pennsylvania including Northern regions.

I strongly believe that joining RGGI is a morally and intellectually responsible choice for Pennsylvania in view of public health, safety, economics, and the well-being of current and future generations.

1. **POLLUTION:** Despite the efforts of the fossil fuels industry to bend and manipulate science and statistics, it's essential for the health and well-being of our people to transition quickly to safe and environment-friendly sources of energy. Tons of CO₂, methane gas, benzene, and PM_{2.5} are emitted hourly into the air we breathe resulting in the death of thousands of infants and children, fossil fuel workers, the poor, the elderly; and it's a nightmare for 1,257,000 Pennsylvanians who suffer from asthma. It is unconscionable to damage the health of so many on the grounds it provides well-paying jobs and improves our economy while the same results could be achieved through much cleaner means that do not kill nor cause global warming. RGGI offers a proven strategy and resources to help us accomplish that.
2. **SAFE JOBS & JOB TRAINING:** The fossil fuels industry provides good paying jobs that do indeed help our economy; but at the price of damaging the health of many, killing thousands of people every year in this state, and causing global warming which threatens all living things on this planet. RGGI offers an effective structure and resources to retrain fossil fuel workers for much healthier jobs in safe energy production. Studies done with integrity show the transition to safe energy production and use will provide a much healthier economy while ending the murder of innocent people who do not receive the high profits generated for the owners of the fossil fuels industry.
3. **CURB CLIMATE CHANGE:** No matter how strong the evidence, some choose to deny the obvious that the production and use of fossil fuels is behind Global Warming. The industry is determined to conceal the truth in order to protect the wealth it achieves for a few—much like the tobacco industry did for generations. No cost is spared to "influence" senators, representatives, government agencies, etc. to prevent dealing with the problem responsibly. Some in this state have sold their souls for economic and political advantage. I know God intimately. I know how he feels about such people. God will forgive many things; but not a crime like this which is deliberate. Global Warming is such a threat to our children and their children-- we cannot afford waiting to take the radical action necessary to slow it down and reverse it. It will not happen over-night; but every hour we waste has consequences that can only be tragic.

It is a fact that thousands of Pennsylvania's children, youth, and adults die every year from the pollution generated in the production and use of fossil fuels. Denying the truth does not lessen the tragedy; nor will it satisfy God's command to love one another. The only love it represents is the love of money and power. On the day I stand before God, I would not want such selfish cruelty on my life-record. There are some things God will not forgive nor forget.