



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

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I am speaking as an individual in support of PA joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

I have always been an “outdoors” type of person, enjoying hiking, biking, camping and going to the beach, and the environment has always been the most important issue to me. I truly feel that climate change is threatening all life on our planet. Rising seas, erratic weather patterns, more frequent and severe storms, and wildfires, are just some of the harmful impacts effecting our lives. Of course those most effected are in already compromised communities and I sympathize with them.

As an individual, I do my part by riding a bicycle for transportation and drive an electric vehicle when going further. I purchase wind energy for my home and conserve resources like, energy, water and food. Also, being vegan and eating organic whole foods greatly reduces my carbon footprint. And when I have concerns, I let my legislators know as well as volunteer for environmental nonprofits. I don't expect everyone to live like me but it hurts and incenses me to see legislators, influenced by the fossil fuel industry, make or repeal laws that result in greater corporate profits at the expense of the Earth and her inhabitants.

I see the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as a fantastic opportunity to lower Pennsylvania's carbon pollution and an important step to mitigating climate change. It will improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians! It has bipartisan support and Governor Wolf is in favor of it. Nine New England and Mid-Atlantic states have been participating and it has been very successful in reducing carbon output. And, billions of dollars will be generated that can be used for renewable energy, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, new green jobs and more. And increasing the restrictions on energy manufactures over time is easier on them than if it was all at once.

I realize the fossil fuel industry may be struggling to maintain the same level of profitability with the drop in transportation due to the pandemic and the low price of oil, but not doing this, and allowing increasing pollution, causes more harm to our vulnerable populations and the need for disaster relief, that is paid for by all taxpayers. I urge Pennsylvania to please join RGGI to take a stand for Pennsylvanians and all life on Earth.