



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)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 9 (1pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/14/2020 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:

Issy Lawrie
 Our Air Our Water Our Rights (issy.lawrie@gmail.com)
 226 Mellon Avenue
 Girard, PA 16417 US

Comments entered:

Hi my name is Issy Lawrie. I live in Girard, Erie County, PA. I am speaking today in support of the Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program.

I am representing the Erie group that I belong to, Our Air Our Water Our Rights. The mission statement of OAOWOR replicates the PA Constitution Article 1, section 27. It states that the people of Pennsylvania have the right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment.

Clean air is extremely important to us. Our OAOWOR group has organized Electric Vehicle Car Shows in Erie in 2018 and 2019 and we would have in 2020 also if we hadn't been in the midst of this pandemic. Why do we organize EV car shows? Because encouraging people to choose Electric Vehicle ownership will result in reduced fossil fuel emissions. Reduced fossil fuel emissions equals cleaner air. Cleaner air means more healthy people. Reduced fossil fuel

emissions is also essential in tackling our very real climate crisis.

As a small group of citizens in Erie we are doing what we can. But we need our DEP and our legislators to do something to improve our air and mitigate the effects of the climate crisis also. And that something would be to have PA participate in a Carbon Dioxide Trading Program. By joining this program we would ensure that our air is cleaner and pollution is reduced.

RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which is a current carbon dioxide Trading Program, started in 2008, that's TWELVE years ago. Ten eastern seaboard states are already participating. It just boggles my mind that Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont are already in RGGI and PA isn't. Why are we dragging our feet? It is high time PA got on board and started to reap the benefits that these other states are getting. We in PA deserve cleaner air also. As I said earlier, clean air is our Constitutional right.

The data from the RGGI participating states is indisputable. From 2008 to 2018 carbon pollution decreased by 47% in these states. This decrease in pollution outpaced the rest of the country by 90%.

PA is the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation after CA, TX and FL. We in PA have a responsibility to be a leader in implementing climate solutions and reducing emissions.

I realize the fossil fuel industry has a tight hold on the way we do things in PA but the climate crisis and the air that our families breathe, are life and death issues that we are facing is right now. We need a DEP and legislators that are bold enough to stand up to the fossil fuel industry and do what is right for the people of PA.

The benefits of joining RGGI are huge. Not only will we get cleaner air which will improve our health, we'll also get an improved economy and a way to mitigate the effects of our very real climate crisis.

For all these benefits, for all the people of PA, for our children and our grandchildren, we, the members of OAOWOR of Erie County, most strongly urge the PA DEP to set us up to participate in a Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program, aka RGGI.

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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