



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

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The carboniferous period in geological time lasted 60 million years. Fixing and ultimately storing carbon that we have used to fuel our development and growth since the industrial revolution. 60 million years to store the carbon and here we are using it up in a millisecond of geological time. This has to be creating an imbalance in the carbon cycle with our atmosphere and oceans being the recipient of this extra carbon. This extra carbon dioxide is warming our atmosphere and acidifying our oceans and we can soon reach a point of no return.

This imbalance in carbon needs to be addressed now and our reliance on fossil fuels, in particular coal, diminished. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a good place to start. My hope is that the RGGI will find a benevolent means to transition our energy market away from coal to natural gas, renewables and increased efficiencies.

I am from Indiana county home of four coal fired power plants. 100 car unit trains bring coal in daily to supply these plants. Meanwhile 5700 tons/hour of carbon dioxide leave the scrubbers. The coal and fly ash waste storage areas next to these plants continue grow. Some larger than the hills that surround these power plants. Yet Indiana County sits in the middle of one of the Country's largest natural gas deposit, the Marcellus shale. The RGGI can be the catalyst for switching these plants to use this natural gas.

Utilizing this natural gas will preserve some of the traditional energy economy. But it is only a bridge to a carbon neutral energy environment. The RGGI can be the stimulus to get us to a renewable and efficient energy portfolio. Wind and solar is already competitive with fossil fuels and probably cheaper if the health and environmental costs of fossil fuels are included. The RGGI can capture these costs using them to incentivize renewables and efficiencies.

Solar panels I placed on my home are meeting the energy needs for my home and the efficient all-electric car I now drive. Groundhog solar, an Altoona based company employing 7 people, installed the panels. The net-metering agreement with the power company and tax credits encouraged my own investment in the

infrastructure. Solar arrays placed in rural communities on marginal farmland, can provide income for the farmer, energy and jobs for the rural community and reduce energy losses through distributed generation. The potential scenarios for solar are unlimited.

The 200 mile range of my electric car reflects increases in battery and electric motor technology. While this range is great for most commuting and daily applications the lack of charging facilities is a deterrent for many. More efficient charging stations would encourage the switch to electric vehicles. While advancing battery technology will increase storage potential and reduce costs.

Revenues generated through RGGI can be used to promote job creation as Pennsylvania explores other carbon neutral energy sources and energy efficiencies technologies. In 2010 I worked with a local dairy who installed manure digester/generator system. A grant through the Energy Harvest program helped build the facility and to date the facility has generated 13,000 megawatts, reduced methane gas emissions and continues to employ 10 people. Biofuels and our many waste streams represent potential energy sources and job creators.

It is essential that we move to a carbon neutral energy strategy. The RGGI is a market based and job creating strategy that will enhance Pennsylvania's economy while working to combat climate change.