



Stephen Hoffman

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

Jeanne Zang
(jeannesz49@gmail.com)
320 Ohio River Blvd, Apt. B3
Sewickley, PA 15143 US

Comments entered:

My name is Jeanne Zang. I live in Sewickley, 12 miles down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh.

I wholeheartedly support and encourage Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This initiative is a win-win situation for the state of Pennsylvania and indeed for the entire world. It is a win in that it will be an important step toward fighting climate change by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and it will encourage clean energy instead of dirty coal and natural gas which threaten our health. From an economic perspective it is a win because it will create jobs and add almost 2 billion dollars to the state economy. Participation in RGGI would transform Pennsylvania from the fourth largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the nation to a leader in the growing clean energy economy.

I am testifying today, not as an expert or as a representative of an organization. Rather I come here to testify as a mother and grandmother. I am the mother of two adult sons and the

grandmother of four beautiful grandsons, aged 4 to 10. I love these little boys with all my heart and I will do everything in my power to fight to mitigate climate change so that they have the chance to grow up in a world that is not devastated by climate catastrophes. I am also teaching them that they, along with many others in their generation, will change the world. We must all act with a great sense of urgency since we are seeing the effects of climate change far sooner than scientists had predicted. What we do in Pennsylvania affects not just our own state, but the whole nation, and indeed the whole world. My oldest son and his wife and two of my grandsons live near Los Angeles. This summer's wildfires, which are increasingly frequent due to climate change, were terrifying. Even though my son and his family were not directly threatened by fire, there was a two-week period when they were unable to leave their house due to the poor air quality. Here in Pennsylvania we are already seeing climate change in the form of higher temperatures, stronger storms, and more flooding. These changes will strain our infrastructure and emergency services. In 2018 alone, PennDOT spent more than \$125 million to repair flood and landslide damage.

In addition to climate change, as many other speakers have noted, the Pittsburgh area suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation. By participating in RGGI, reduced pollution will lead to \$6 billion in health benefits through 2030, more than 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and more than 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis among children.

I repeat, RGGI is a win-win opportunity. Through this initiative, Pennsylvania could receive hundreds of millions of dollars in proceeds annually. These funds would be invested in targeted efforts to eliminate air pollution, promote job creation, support working Pennsylvanians, and help boost the state's long-term economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. RGGI is overwhelmingly supported by the citizens of Pennsylvania. In September a poll found that over 7 in 10 Pennsylvania voters support participation in RGGI.

We need to take bold actions immediately to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change around the world. Fossil fuels are the energy of the 20th century. We are now 20 years into the 21st century and it is beyond high time to move into the new clean energy world. I urge you to make Pennsylvania a leader in clean energy by becoming a key participant in RGGI, thereby reducing our carbon pollution, improving our air quality, and creating thousands of new jobs.

Thank you. It has been an honor to be one among so many eloquent and passionate speakers here today.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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