



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; 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:

Kathryn Westman
 (Kcwestman@aol.com)
 104 Steeplechase Circle
 Gibsonia, PA 15044 US

Comments entered:

My name is Kathryn Westman and I live in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania

As a public citizen who cares about the threat of global warming, I speak today in favor of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative program for Pennsylvania. In our state we already see some of global warming's negative effects. Warmer temperatures contribute to a longer vector season for Lyme disease deer ticks, a decrease in milk production in the dairy industry, and the rising threat of heat strokes. State agriculture has suffered from our unpredictable planting seasons. Heavy, prolonged rain has affected many of our communities with flooding and land slides. PA must take action now against global warming and joining RGGI is an opportunity to do just that.

Since 2008 RGGI has had bipartisan support for slashing the power plant emissions that contribute to global warming. The initiative has shown this benefit in other states slashing emissions by one half. Additional benefits included billions of dollars used for clean energy and

energy efficiency projects. And, dear to my heart, improved air quality.

For I am also speaking as a Registered Nurse and lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, specifically Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. I live in a city and county so very proud of our medical schools, universities, and health facilities. Yet we must hang our heads when it comes to the health of our citizens. As a nurse and resident, I have seen patients and neighbors affected by our air pollution. I personally mourned a wonderful little 10 year old boy who died from a fatal asthma attack. Pittsburgh may no longer be the Smokey City, but its unseen minute air particulate pollution levels are inexcusable. We now know better. We must do better.

For so many positive reasons, RGGI is a huge step in the right direction. In states where it has been implemented, RGGI has significantly improved public health. Criteria pollutants which are emitted by power plants and enter the lungs and blood stream have been reduced. This has prevented hundreds of heart attacks, thousands of asthma attacks, premature deaths, and other health problems. I quote from a Columbia University study that showed southeastern Pennsylvania has already benefited from particulate matter reductions under the RGGI plans of neighboring states. By participating in RGGI and cleaning up local power plant pollution, the Commonwealth would achieve even greater benefits.

And finally I speak as a person of faith. COVID 19 has made us all aware of the many who are disproportionately affected by the virus. It has highlighted those who suffer from pre-existing conditions. It vividly shows that air pollution and its devastating health effects are one of the starkest examples of environmental racism. Low income communities and communities of color often face greater exposure to air pollution because of their proximity to industrial factories. RGGI will help address this inequity.

My faith calls me to care for all creation. I believe it is a moral obligation to stop global warming and work towards a better environment for all. I believe RGGI will benefit our state and all its citizens.

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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