



“Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation”

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My name is Dr. Donald Naragon and I am a resident of Franklin Park, Pennsylvania. Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this virtual public hearing. I am speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On the Board I’m a Vice President with a focus on the Environment.

ARTICLE I Section 27 of the DECLARATION OF RIGHTS was added to Pennsylvania’s Constitution in 1971. Sec. 27 states:

**“Natural resources and the public estate.** The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

[May 18, 1971, P.L.769, J.R.3]1971 Amendment. Joint Resolution No.3 added section 27.]

The League of Women Voters played a significant, primary role leading to the adoption of Article 1, Section 27. The League strongly supports actions that advance the Commonwealth toward these rights. To that end, it is time for Pennsylvania to adopt a proven program to reduce carbon pollution, to create thousands of jobs and to join the bipartisan Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI.

RGGI has been a success in the states where it is in place, cutting climate pollution by a third and raising nearly \$3 billion to invest in clean energy and other purposes.

Based on the Proposed Rule published in the Nov. 7, 2020 Pennsylvania Bulletin, the League expects that RGGI will reduce CO2 emissions in the Commonwealth and as additional benefits further reduce the emissions of SO2, NOx and particulates. As reported by the PA Dept. of Health in the 2019 “The State of Health Equity in Pennsylvania”, Pennsylvania cities that ranked in the top 25 of U.S. cities for highest levels of year-round particle pollution are: Pittsburgh (No. 8), Philadelphia (No. 11), Johnstown-Somerset (No. 13), Altoona (No. 18), Lancaster (No. 20), Harrisburg (No. 22), and Erie-Meadville (No. 25). Also, Philadelphia has the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest level of ozone pollution of all U.S. cities. The report also states that Pennsylvania ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in CO2 emissions. Reducing these pollutants and other greenhouse gases would move the Commonwealth toward ensuring every citizen’s right to clean air.

Annually, for the past eight years the League of Women Voters of PA has held a “Shale & Public Health Conference”. Most of the papers presented at these conferences have concluded that the closer a person lives to a greenhouse gas emitter, the poorer the persons health outcomes (for example: asthma, some cancers, low birth weights, preterm births). Reducing greenhouse gas emissions would be

expected to improve health and, therefore, reduce the cost of health care and the number of lost workdays. Estimates show that adopting RGGI should reduce greenhouse gases in 2022 - 2030 which is expected to produce \$6.3 billion in health care savings and 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory illnesses like asthma among children and adults. There should also be 45,000 fewer asthma attacks. This would be a good beginning toward guaranteeing the right of all Pennsylvanians to clean air.

These pollutants have also been shown to contribute to/to cause global warming, increasing the frequency and intensity of major storms. Note that there were 30 named tropical storms this year – a record number. While the Gulf coast suffered from torrential rains and flooding, some counties in Pennsylvania experienced severe drought warnings in this summer and many other counties were in drought watches. Uneven and extreme weather is caused by the increasing amounts/levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. While humankind is not responsible for all the increase in greenhouse gases, it would be prudent to reduce to the greatest extent possible humankind's contribution to the increase. This would be a start toward the right of all Pennsylvanians to the preservation of the natural, scenic, and esthetic values of the environment

Reducing the combustion of fossil fuels will reduce both the demand for the fuels which will lead to job losses in the fossil fuel industry and will interrupt the cycle of children following in their parents' footsteps into jobs/careers in the fossil fuel industry. Displaced workers and those who don't see a future will need training/retraining programs and assistance with the difficult transition to opportunities in developing industries. The Department has modeled an investment strategy that would use the annual proceeds for energy efficiency, renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement and a minor amount for program expenses. Funding for training/retraining programs and transition assistance is not mentioned, but should be to demonstrate to the potentially displaced workers that there are paths forward to new careers/jobs. The shift from fossil fuel energy to solar, wind, nuclear, hydro and geothermal energy sources would be expected to create additional jobs in these fields, perhaps a net increase of more than 27,000 jobs. But, not every displaced worker from the fossil fuel industries will want to work in these industries. In addition to training/retraining in the renewable energy industries, training/retraining should be provided in other industries; such as carpentry, sustainable agriculture, transportation.

In summary, RGGI is the market based, job creating, proven tool for Pennsylvania to tackle the problems that climate change presents and to tackle the obligation of providing all Pennsylvanians with the Constitutionally guaranteed right to clean air. Thank you for considering my testimony.