



## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:56 PM  
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**Cc:** c-jflanaga@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 8 (1pm) - #7-559  
**Testimony date:** 12/11/2020 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:

Linda Westrick  
(linda.westrick@gmail.com)

, PA US

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Comments entered:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I value the health and well-being of people globally, and I know that we, Pennsylvanians, have an ethical obligation to present and future generations of people to draw down our carbon emissions. We also need to do this transition in a way that makes sense economically.

RGGI is a modest program, but it takes us a step in that direction.

About RGGI, two questions to consider are: what are the costs and benefits of RGGI? How does RGGI participation or non-participation position us for the future?

I see modest benefits in emissions reductions and health co-benefits from lowered particulate pollution, as well as modest benefits to PA's economy as a whole. One modest cost is an increase in bureaucracy, and leakage is a factor which will decrease the effectiveness of the

RGGI program, but will not cancel it out. RGGI will also accelerate the decline of coal in PA, which is a positive for the environment and health, but a negative for the affected workers. Overall, the benefits seem to outweigh the costs.

We can also consider how RGGI participation positions our state for the future. As the effects of carbon pollution become more and more visible, it is inevitable that humanity will respond, even the US. The only questions are when and how, and what our role will be. PA is a major energy state. I'd like to see us as a leader in energy innovation, in protecting the health of our population, and in popularizing the carbon pricing approach. Economists agree that an aggressive price on carbon is a highly effective way to reduce emissions while maintaining prosperity. RGGI's carbon price is modest, not aggressive. But it is a step in a promising direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your work on this initiative.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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