

Comment RGGI Hearing
December 14, 2020
1 pm #57 Lois Campbell



Good afternoon and Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Lois Campbell. I live at 153 Lloyd Avenue in Edgewood a first ring suburb of Pittsburgh. Although I speak today as a private citizen, I am here primarily as a person of faith. I am a member of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in the East End of Pittsburgh and the former director of the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network. My work in faith based organizing and my catholic faith both challenge me to pay attention to the many ways we need desperately to change the way we care for each other, for our community and for our earth.

I have lived in PA for 33 years, 26 of those in Pittsburgh a great city, a city I love But in a region with some of the worst air quality in the country and growing problems-many many of them named today--resulting from Climate Change. I have listened and appreciated hearing over 50 powerful testimonies before mine. They have named the stories, the specifics and the urgency of taking action and some of the challenges so I will be brief.

I am here to speak in favor of PA joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. ReGGI membership is only one but an important step toward carbon reduction and the reduction of other toxic gases and particulates that damage our climate that hurt our children and other vulnerable members of the community.

And ReGGI has already been effective in its current 10 states. I was excited to learn that it has cut carbon pollution by more than half since 2009. Other toxic pollutants linked to Asthma, Cancer and other diseases have been reduced. 45,000 jobs and billions in economic activity have been created in those states and consumers have saved more than a billion \$. These are results we need in my community—in Pennsylvania.

I support joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative without any major changes but do ask you to invest ReGGI income into economically and environmentally disadvantaged communities urban and rural. And to monitor the impact on those communities and make adjustments when they are negatively impacted.

In closing, Pope Francis challenges all people to care for our common home. The earth is the only home we have. Pennsylvania, our particular piece of this common home is our responsibility. Please take this opportunity to care for its present and its future. Thank you.