



Stephen Hoffman

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

Marian Shearer
 (uccrev77@gmail.com)
 305 Pomander Ave.
 Reading, PA 19606 US

Comments entered:

Why Pennsylvania should join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

From the Rev. Marian P. Shearer

I am testifying as an individual citizen. But what I would like to flag is the constituency that includes me and thousands of others who want real movement on addressing climate change.

I'm sure other testifiers today will have commented on the way the regional initiative works, with cap and trade opportunities so that companies which are saving energy and operating "green" can trade credits to ones that need to compensate for their energy usage.

Others will detail how much money can be saved and how much energy can be saved, and how Pennsylvania can begin to provide a greater number of clean energy jobs, and benefit from the

revenue from the greenhouse gas initiative.

What I would like to lift up is that, like me, there are many out here who want real progress on addressing climate change.

Though I'm testifying as an individual today, I am a member of or correspond with: Citizens' Climate Lobby, League of Conservation Voters, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania, Sierra Club, Berks Stands Up, Berks Nature, and Penn Environment, just to name the organizations I can think of today. All of these organizations have thousands of members in Pennsylvania, spread in chapters all over the state, and all of them want real movement on climate change.

And, I am a member of the United Church of Christ, which has 40,000 members in Pennsylvania. The UCC, the Presbyterian Church USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, American Baptist, Unitarian Universalists, Quaker meetings, Roman Catholics, many evangelicals, some Orthodox, most Jewish organizations—all have statements and policies asking our governments and our businesses to do better regarding our climate. All of these policies call for less use of fossil fuels, as a way to honor the creation God has given us, and honor the God who gave it.

So, lest the readers and hearers of our testimonies think that there are only a few crazy environmentalists out there who wish us to join the regional initiative, let me reassure you otherwise. For each person who got organized enough and brave enough to sign up for this testimony today, or write in with theirs, there are a dozen more who wish they had done so or could take the time. For every organization I've named there is another I don't even know about. On every college campus and in every city there is a sustainability committee and sustainability initiative, to save money and energy. Those who benefit from the fracking and oil industries do not want to change that, of course, but thousands upon thousands of your fellow citizens of the commonwealth of PA want us to take reasonable steps. Here is one that is painless and profitable.

Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is but one step toward the cleaner and healthier world we all desire. For many of us who think of ourselves as environmentalists, it is not even a very big step, because it allows all kinds of energy producers to keep producing dirty energy, but just pay more for the privilege. But it is how we take the next step down the road toward ceasing to need all that fracked gas and drilled oil, so that our children may still breathe the air and drink the water.

Why should Pennsylvania be the backward one among the northeastern states in addressing climate change? Let's take our place in the competition and show ourselves to be outstanding.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov