



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-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:

Marilyn Berberich
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Newtown Square, PA US

Comments entered:

First of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide citizen testimony on the potential membership of Pennsylvania in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Sometimes I wonder if lawmakers are listening to constituents, so this invitation to share my concerns, hopes, and wishes for Pennsylvania's future role in addressing climate change is very reassuring.

My journey to this moment on Webex has been in progress for decades. My climate story begins in childhood, and maybe yours does, too. When I look back to the home where I grew up, I can easily spot seeds of responsibility and stewardship. Perhaps because my parents grew up during the depression or perhaps because of the ethics and values that they lived by, I found myself growing up in a household that frowned on waste – there was no shame in eating leftovers, shoes were taken to the repair shop for new heels or soles, and we used seriously frayed towels because they still dried. In other words, you thought twice about how to make things last. A healthy earth is no different... we need to make it last!

Now fast forward to my entrance into the working world where I began my career in education as an elementary classroom teacher. Some of my most delightful years were spent teaching 3rd graders. They're inquisitive, funny, full of great energy, and they love to be problem solvers! One of the highlights of my years as a 3rd grade teacher was writing and delivering an environmental science curriculum. There's an inherent affinity between kids and the natural world, and the lessons were well received. With 8 year-olds, the more time spent outdoors, the better. Be a good steward of the environment, sign me up! Create a toy out of recycled materials, love that assignment! It was the decade of the first Earth Day and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and teachers and students were ready to do their part. I thought we were on a straight forward path to being good stewards of the earth. Sadly, there have been many detours from this path.

Eighteen years later I was still in education, but not as a classroom teacher. I was an elementary school counselor. Although I would no longer be teaching science, I was immersed in other important work that would involve collaborating with others to analyze challenging situations and develop strategies to address concerns. And isn't that what climate scientists do, and isn't that what climate advocates care about?

Moving right along, I am now a retired educator, a grandparent, and someone in that stage of life where I want to direct my time and talents to causes that will allow us to pass along a world that is healthy, safe, and just for future generations. I'm not OK with prioritizing the fossil fuel industry over the health of the planet. I'm not OK with rolling back environmental protections during the pandemic. I'm not OK with sarcastic comments about global warming when we have a prolonged stretch of cold temperatures. I'm not OK with ignoring the ticking clock when it comes to effectively addressing CO2 levels. Let's not discover that the pandemic was a dress rehearsal for environmental catastrophes triggered by climate change.

I believe we are unrealistic if we assume we don't have to change how we do things over time, and I think we sell ourselves short if we think we can't overcome challenges. I believe we are called to find a path that will take us to hope and solutions. Pennsylvania membership in RGGI would take us in that direction. It's certainly not beyond our ability to find ways to transition jobs in the fossil fuel industry to jobs in the renewable energy field. I think a Pennsylvania partnership in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the right thing to do, and I want Pennsylvanians to be on the right side of history.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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