



Good evening (who )

My name is Rev. Nathaniel Goodson, and I am the pastor of the Prayer Chapel church located in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. Upper Darby is a bedroom community bordering Philadelphia. I am happy to offer my comments as a private citizen and one who has experienced the effects of climate control.

My belief as a Christian guide's my actions and one of the most repeated biblical commands is "care for the least of these" as stated by Jesus in Matthews Gospel. Christians are also directed by the Old testament writings of Psalms which says.

*Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.*

*Rescue the weak and the needy.*

Research reveals that Pennsylvania has the dubious distinction as being the third largest greenhouse gas polluting state in the nation as well the countries 5th dirtiest power plant industry. I have come today to speak on behalf of Pennsylvania children both born and unborn. My testimony is also on behalf of 257,000 Pennsylvania children who battle asthma that is intensified by the pollution of fossil fuel. But on a personal note, my statement is also behalf of my daughter and granddaughter both of whom have asthma. My daughter Dea is one of 1 million adults in Pennsylvania who battle this life changing health condition. Unless you have witnessed your child or any child for that matter you may not be aware of how traumatic an event it is. I have experienced the feeling of helplessness as I watched the panic and fear in the eyes of my daughter as she's suffered through this. There is no more powerless feeling than to watch your child suffer and you are unable to help. And since the American Lung Association has stated that smog levels in Pennsylvania are increasing, the future for my granddaughter is bleak to say the least.

The research suggest that over 2,700 Pennsylvania perished in 2018 from our air quality problem. This pollution problem also includes that which is created by the electric generation industry. As stated, Pennsylvania has the inauspicious honor of having the third most air pollution – related deaths in the nation after California and New York.

I believe that climate change is the greatest threat we face, and I believe that greenhouse gas emission from fossil fuel is the largest contributor to those numbers and we are starting to see its devastating effects.

To reduce the effects of climate change -causing carbon pollution from power plants, the Department of Environmental protection has proposed that the commonwealth join the regional greenhouse gas initiative or (RGGI).

By joining this program Pennsylvania would join a bipartisan group of 10 governors who lead states from Maine to Maryland. Pennsylvania state would create its own program for implementation. I believe that if we were to participate in this program the harmful emissions would be reduced which would lead to better public health. Linking a program like RGGI with a commitment to investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, which would position Pennsylvania as a leader in the growing clean energy economy.

Lastly, if Pennsylvania were to participate in RGGI it will benefit all of the states residents in four ways.

First, funding will the transition of workers who have worked in fossil fuel for their years of service, many of whom may have endured health risks.

Secondly, support for communities of color as well as other lower economically individuals who because of red-lining and other racist acts have been forced to live in areas of the highest pollution.

Thirdly, this program will provide for energy efficiency programs to reduce overall energy use and guard against any increased energy cost.

Lastly, the Commonwealth's participation in RGGI will allow for the investment in renewable sources of electricity which in turn will develop clean energy jobs throughout the state.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.