



PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

RICHARD W. BLOOMINGDALE
President

FRANK SNYDER
Secretary-Treasurer



January 7, 2021

Environmental Quality Board
16th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Proposed Rulemaking: #7-559 - CO2 Budget Trading Program

Dear Board Members,

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, on behalf of the 700,000 hardworking women and men we represent, asks that you **oppose** the DEP's proposed regulations seeking to limit state CO2 emissions through participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

As three different advisory committees have made clear through their respective votes on the proposed regulations, Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI will not benefit the state economically or environmentally. Participation in RGGI will quickly accelerate the closure of Pennsylvania's remaining coal-fired power plants, **eliminating thousands of good-paying jobs, including jobs held by members of our affiliated unions who depend on work in the power-generating industry to sustain their careers** and remove \$2.87 billion in economic activity from the state economy. Also, communities that rely on tax revenue from currently operating power plants to fund school districts and essential services will be devastated.

From an environmental standpoint, DEP's RGGI modeling confirms that Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI will not yield any meaningful reduction in statewide or regional CO2 emissions by 2030 beyond what is occurring through current market forces

Given the above, we respectfully ask the Environmental Quality Board to reject the proposed regulations to authorize Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI.

Thank you for considering our position. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact the President's Office at 717-231-2841 or via email at president@paafclcio.org.

Sincerely,
Richard W. Bloomingdale, President
Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer

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