



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-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 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:

Roger Day
(notsofeo@gmail.com)
2104 Beechwood Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15217 US

Comments entered:

Let's begin by acknowledging and thanking the workers who for a dozen decades have been bringing us the electrical energy we need for our homes and businesses. Just as the decline of the coal industries has continued unabated, the same will happen to other fossil fuel industries. The workers deserve a soft landing and a pathway to a post-fossil-fuel future. We do them no favors leaving the workers in dying industries. Joining RGGI can help transition to good jobs with a long future using these workers' ingenuity and industriousness.

Beyond giving petroleum workers a future, RGGI will help with the starkest threat the people of the world face, climate disruption from greenhouse gases. My personal encounter with climate harms first occurred when snorkeling with my daughter among the coral reefs off Florida. She was so excited to see this underwater wonderland, the expanse of pure white coral and occasional fish. But twenty years earlier, I had been there among the reefs. When the coral was alive and vibrant with all manner of colors, when fish were thick and wildly diverse and colorful.

It was heartbreaking to see what she had lost, what the world had lost. Heating, acidifying oceans are killing coral worldwide.

Of course that's a minor catastrophe among so many far more serious we face from climate disruption. But it's a personal experience with impact. I also observe children that I tutor and teach carrying asthma inhalers; the risk here is 3 times the national average. The difference is the air pollution from burning fossil fuels. RGGI in PA will give tens of thousands of children back their good health, let them run and play outdoors safely.

As for global heating, anyone skeptical about unabated GHG emissions and climate can consult the petroleum geologist known on YouTube as potholer54. His videos on "The Evidence for Climate Change without Computer Modeling or the IPCC" make the case based only on peer-reviewed published observational science.

As for joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative: I support this step, with only the reservation that much more will be needed. RGGI has achieved lower emissions in the participating states. PA is a bit late in the game relative to the region. But with its enormous electric power generation sector, PA's joining RGGI can multiply the positive good of RGGI manyfold. Furthermore, such a large market as PA will not be ignored as it shouts to the world its commitment to solving this problem. That is leadership.

We have transitioned from burning wood and manure, to coal, to petroleum, to natural gas and nuclear power. We are not suddenly incompetent, we can do another energy transition, since our futures and our lives depend on it.

For those who believe that market forces are problem-solvers (like the aforesaid "potholer54"), the RGGI approach has great appeal. Good will and commitment from all sides is needed, including people comfortable with "conservative" market-based solutions.

Still, implementation of pollution credit trading markets holds a risk of further harm to communities already suffering from poor air quality. Market forces often achieve their "efficiencies" by foisting burdens on communities that cannot easily defend themselves from dumped pollution. I urge DEP & the Governor to keep a sharp eye out for these injustices as PA joins RGGI.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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