



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation.

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As a member of council and deputy mayor of Carlisle Borough, I have witnessed how the current energy sector economic model is failing our environment and our citizens. The energy market has not sufficiently integrated the cost of greenhouse gas impacts. Instead, the cost too often falls upon the residents of this Commonwealth and our local governments. The current economic model rewards environmental and economic waste. It continues to weigh in favor of fossil fuels and, in many ways, leaves it to our residents and local governments to clean up the mess.

The Department of Environmental Protection has documented the 10 percent increase in average annual precipitation over the last century and projected an increase of another 8 percent over the next thirty years due to the climate effects of greenhouse gas emissions.¹ The EPA has concluded that global warming is causing and will continue to cause increased intensity of flooding and droughts in Pennsylvania, noting the human-caused climate change-induced 70 percent increase in heavy precipitation in the Northeast since 1958 is a trend that is likely to continue through the next century.²

In Carlisle Borough, our residents are already paying the cost of climate change. The increased frequency of heavy flooding is very real for us. During the summer storms of 2018 and 2019, flooding that had not been seen before twice hit the residents of our Hamilton neighborhood. They suffered property damage, forcing them to renovate portions of their homes and to replace costly furnaces and other property. Invaluable moments were surely stolen from them in the time it took to recover. Riding down Carlisle's Olson Drive in those days, I bore witness to the consequences of climate change: the fallout of greenhouse gas emissions in the debris and loss strewn about the yards of my constituents and neighbors. The effects of greenhouse gas emissions have gradually crept up on us in the floodwaters, and our residents are almost literally drowning in it.

Last year, Carlisle Borough Council authorized and completed a greenhouse gas inventory for the borough through the DEP Local Climate Action Program. We know that in Carlisle in 2017, electricity accounted for 61.3% of residential greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption and 66.9% of commercial-industrial energy greenhouse gas emissions. These are the largest sources of carbon pollution generated by Carlisle, and we in local government have meager tools to address it.

Earlier this year on the heels of the greenhouse gas inventory, Carlisle Borough Council resolved to implement a comprehensive climate action plan. Using a 2005 baseline, Council committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 26% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Additionally,

Council pledged to meet or exceed future state, federal or international commitments. We can do our part to move the needle in Carlisle, but we can fully tackle climate change only with leadership and partnership at the federal and state levels.

The Commonwealth's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative CO₂ Budget Trading Program would be a tremendous stride forward. RGGI is a market-based solution that more efficiently builds the cost of greenhouse gas emissions into the energy economic model where it belongs. Simultaneously, participation would place us at the forefront of investment in the still emerging and advancing clean energy sector of the economy.

RGGI has a proven track record cutting carbon pollution in half from regional power plants in participating states. Additionally, RGGI provides important co-benefits. Carlisle is the county seat of Cumberland County, a county which was non-attainment for particulate matter until recent years like other counties in Pennsylvania continue to be. Participation in RGGI has been marked by a reduction in particulate matter and other pollutants that cause adverse health impacts. An Analysis Group report on the impact of RGGI found energy savings for consumers and positive economic impacts through the creation of thousands of jobs.³ These jobs are the future of the energy sector, and participation in RGGI will launch Pennsylvania's economy forward.

This important tool for the future environmental and economic security and prosperity of the citizens of the Commonwealth is within our grasp. On behalf of Carlisle Borough Council and the people of Carlisle, I urge Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI and the CO₂ Budget Trading Program. We cannot let this opportunity slip through our fingers a moment longer.

Thank you.

¹ James Shortle *et al*, *Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Update* (May 2015).

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 430-F-16-040, *What Climate Change Means for Pennsylvania* (August 2016).

³ Paul J. Hibbard, Susan F. Tierney, Pavel G. Darling & Sarah Cullinan, *The Economic Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in Nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States* (April 17, 2018).