



## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:56 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; 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:

Sonya Kripke  
 (sonyakripke@gmail.com)

, PA US

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Comments entered:

My name is Sonya Kripke. I am a materials engineer, and I have lived in and around Philadelphia for my entire life.

I strongly support the Proposed Rule and Pennsylvania linking to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Climate change is a human problem. It's no secret that people around the world today experience firsthand the destructive effects of climate change, whether by drought, flooding, or the increasing prevalence of infectious diseases such as malaria. Perhaps the most obvious and devastating short-term consequence of society's disregard for the planet we inhabit is the striking increase in natural disaster frequency and severity.

In recent years, the scientific field of extreme event attribution has produced clear evidence

linking the frequency and severity of extreme weather events to human carbon emissions. With developments in this field, we are able to clearly show the impact of climate change on extreme weather events. For example, according to a 2004 study published in Nature, the extreme heatwave in Europe in the summer of 2003 was more than twice as likely to occur because of human-induced climate change. There can be no denying the role of our carbon emissions on severe weather events.

What types of extreme weather can we expect here? In Pennsylvania, we will face increased flooding and extreme heat waves. In 2018, the PA department of transportation reported \$105 million in flood damages. As the likelihood of extreme flooding continues to rise, what will that number be in the years to come? Whose homes will be destroyed? As our summers get hotter and hotter, we can expect greater and greater numbers of dangerous heat days each summer. According to the CDC, we can expect an increase in deaths and illnesses as a result, especially among vulnerable demographics such as children and the elderly. Lives are at stake.

When I was a graduate student studying materials science & engineering, I wrote a term paper on the mechanics of our planet's climate feedback system. The science is clear; human activity--especially our use of fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution--affects Earth's climate system in significant ways. The fact that there are still individuals and corporations who ignore, exacerbate, or deny the problem is astonishing to me. We as a society have been ignoring the signs and the consequences of our contribution to climate change for decades. Now, Pennsylvania has a choice: set an example and take action to mitigate the inevitable destruction that is and will continue to result from climate change, or remain complacent. This decision, and many more to come, is critical to our future.

Thank you for your time.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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