



“Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation”, 12/14/20

Provided by:

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I am testifying today as a citizen because I am scared. Truly scared and sad for the future of humans and our Earth.

I have 2 young daughters and I worry often about how their future, safety and health will be impacted if we continue to not act. If we continue to let a few politicians make decisions for ALL of our futures here in the Commonwealth, and around the planet.

In regards to our specific discussion today, I am deeply concerned about the particulate pollution and air quality impacting our citizens.

These PA power plants are not just polluting with Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and operating with no regard for their greenhouse gas emissions – as others have mentioned, there is a lot more to it.

Where there is one pollutant, there is another... Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), Nitric oxide (NOx), Soot, Mercury, and other heavy metals are also being released into our Pennsylvania air. Not a surprise here, but all of this becomes damaging, sickening particulate matter.

RGGI is unique! It would cap and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from these disappointing PA power polluters AND brings millions and millions of dollars back into the PA economy; That’s awesome! What a Win-Win!

Additionally, joining RGGI would improve air quality, leading to cleaner water – both air and water quality directly impacting the health of our PA citizens. What happens when people are healthier? A reduction in healthcare costs for both adults and children in our state, and reduced sick/missed work or school days. Now we have a Win-Win-Win!

And that’s just the health benefits and reduced healthcare costs for our Pennsylvania community. Furthermore, I’ve learned that 27,000 jobs will be created! We know this based on the studies and experience communicated to us by from the other 10 states that have been in this program for some time. Win-Win-Win-Win (4 ‘wins’)....

With all these benefits in mind, why is moving forward with RGGI even a discussion? Listen to the other states who are already involved with RGGI, and hear about all the benefits they have observed – it's proven!

This is one step we CAN take. I hope it's not the only step, but at least in joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative we are moving forward in addressing both climate change and the safety and health of our Pennsylvania citizens – current and future.

I'll close with a quote from Drew Dellinger: *“My great, great grandchildren ask me: What did you do while the planet was plundered? Surely you did something!... What did you do once you knew?”*

Please, **please** support the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for PA today!

Thank you for your time.