

*International Brotherhood of*  
**BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS**

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*Local 154*  
**BLACKSMITHS • FORGERS**

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January 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Business Agent at Boilermakers Local 154, the Recording Secretary of the South-Central Building Trades Council and a lifelong resident of Indiana County; I am in full opposition of Governor Wolf joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) through and Executive Order.

On behalf of my members and our brothers and sisters throughout the building trades, I would like to present the facts, not projections, about the unattainable results predicted by RGGI supporters.

- RGGI will cause all coal-fired power plants to close abruptly with no suggestions on where the projected supplementary revenue will come from. Thousands of well-paying, blue-collar jobs will be lost followed by economic distress in several communities, school districts and throughout counties in Pennsylvania which depend on the tax revenue from the plants. All of this, on top of the disaster caused by the COVID-19 pandemic we are currently facing.
- Pennsylvania will become an *importer* of electricity following the pattern of the current RGGI states. Pennsylvania will no longer be a leader in *exporting* electricity to the PJM and Ohio and West Virginia will take control of this industry as they refuse to join RGGI and have the competitive edge to do so.
- Leakage will occur at our border, negating any projected reductions in CO2 emissions.
- Electricity prices will increase throughout Pennsylvania. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, residential electricity prices are the highest in the country in current RGGI states. Pennsylvania currently sits below the national average.
- Pennsylvania has one of the largest coal and gas reserves in the world. These resources are the backbone of modern technology. They provide reliable, on-demand electricity that powers our county and without them, we could quickly devolve into a third world nation.
- As far as I know, Governor Wolf has not invented a new, metallurgical process without coal, or a plastic formula without natural gas. Pennsylvania should be investing in new technologies like Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) to eliminate emissions and their impacts on the environment. CCS is a proven process and is currently being used all over the world.
- Solar and wind alone cannot provide Pennsylvania with the electricity needed to operate our energy-intensive industries such a steelmaking and manufacturing machinery. These renewable sources are unable to provide reliable, on-demand electricity to residents which is critical considering Pennsylvania weather patterns that may subject us to sub-zero temperatures in the winter and 90-degree summer days.
- The environmental footprint that solar and wind farms will have on our treasured Pennsylvania landscapes. Millions of trees will be cleared, and tens of thousands of acres will be required to attempt this endeavor. Not to mention, large-scale recycling efforts will

be needed for solar panels and windmill blades that will ultimately be retired. As of now, recycling efforts of these materials have been unsuccessful throughout the world.

- The fossil fuel industries have proven to provide dependable, sustainable, blue-collar jobs. The projected “green” energy jobs are not at all comparable and cannot provide the wages and benefits that are current industry standards. I represent skilled workers who build and maintain engineering marvels, these men and woman will likely flee the state under the new restrictions, becoming assets to other states while practicing the trade that has provided for our state for over 100 years.

In closing, Pennsylvania has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources that are needed to live the lifestyles that everyone in this state and country have been taken for granted. To maintain this lifestyle, we must continue to extract, transport and process fossil fuels. Reliable electricity must be guaranteed and generated to manufacture the products we have come to love and cherish, including products necessary to everyday life. Please acknowledge the facts and the direction that RGGI will lead Pennsylvania if we choose to follow suit behind current RGGI states, which are currently enduring the highest costs of living in this country.

Sincerely,  
BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 154

*Shawn Steffee*  
Busines Agent