



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 1:06 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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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Charles Elliott
 City of Easton Environmental Advisory Council (charles.elliott@elliott-lawyers.com)
 26 N. 3rd Street
 Easton, PA 18042 US

Comments entered:

Gentlemen and Mesdames:

I write on behalf of the City of Easton (PA) Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in support of the proposed PADEP rule for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ("RGGI") and to establish a cap and trade CO2 budget trading program. At its January meeting, the EAC voted to support the proposed rule and to provide comments.

This program will help Pennsylvania reduce its carbon emissions while generating revenue which can support programs for home weatherization, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. As the EQB knows, Pennsylvania is the only state in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region that has not yet joined the Initiative, and lags behind Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, which have already joined. More locally, the regional Lehigh Valley Planning Commission also voted this month to support the proposed rule. Pennsylvania's participation in the Initiative would represent a big step forward in achieving greenhouse gas reductions that we urgently need to make.

The City of Easton and the EAC have long supported efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to address climate change impacts. The City continues its multi-year climate change action

planning in partnership with Easton's Nurture Nature Center, a center for research and public engagement on environmental risks, and the EAC. The proposed rule would facilitate these efforts.

In addition to helping reduce climate change impacts, reduced emissions also offer health benefits. DEP estimates that the monetized benefits from reduced health impacts due to reduced sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides would be significant - up to \$6.3 billion by 2030, averaging between \$232 million to \$525 million per year. Additionally, DEP estimates that through 2030:

- Up to 639 premature deaths from respiratory illnesses will be prevented due to emission reductions resulting directly from RGGI participation
- 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory illnesses like asthma for children and adults
- Adults would be healthier as well which results in over 83,000 avoided lost workdays due to health impacts

DEP's modeling estimates that from 2022 to 2030, participating in RGGI would lead to an increase in Gross State Product of nearly \$2 billion and a net increase of over 27,000 Pennsylvania jobs, and a cumulative increase for Pennsylvania residents of Disposable Personal Income of \$3.7 billion by 2050.

The Commonwealth badly needs all of these significant environmental, health, and economic benefits. We respectfully urge the Environmental Quality Board to swiftly adopt the rule so that Pennsylvania can join its sister states in reducing its climate change emissions and to obtain the benefits the cap and trade program will provide.

Very truly yours,

Charles Elliott, on behalf of the City of Easton Environmental Advisory Council

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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