



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:44 AM
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-jflanaga@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:

Miriam Shakow
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Comments entered:

I strongly urge the state of PA to join RGGI. Our planet is heating up and creating dangerous new climate patterns that threaten the lives and livelihoods of billions of people, in addition to other living creatures. Our health, food, economy, and prospects for decent lives is threatened by greenhouse gas emissions, which RGGI would effectively curb in PA and the other member states.

In addition, as a member of Climate Action Narbs and Nearbs, a grassroots volunteer citizen group, I want to convey the strong support for RGGI among residents of Narberth PA. We have spent hundreds of hours working to make our borough of 4,500 people carbon neutral by 2040. We are part of a coalition called "Ready for 100" with 34 municipalities in SE PA who have signed on to this pledge to make our towns carbon neutral within the next few decades, including Philadelphia, Ambler, Abington, and Conshohocken. In Narberth, we've developed a climate action plan, set aside scarce public funds for climate action, switch borough electric and natural gas to renewable sources, and we're installing public electric vehicle charging stations. But even if everyone in the borough were to put solar panels on their roofs, and even if every municipality in SE PA signs on to Ready for 100, state action is desperately needed to effectively address climate change.

Other commenters have spoken about the very strong support for RGGI and other initiatives

across PA. 72% of Pennsylvania respondents support the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. <https://www.timesonline.com/story/news/2020/09/19/poll-pennsylvania-voters-support-regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative/5825867002/>

It's also critical to point out that RGGI's opponents are a vocal minority who benefit economically from the status quo, in contradiction of the interests of most citizens of the Commonwealth of PA. The primary opponents of RGGI are associated with Lincoln Institute of Public Opinion & Research, a Harrisburg-based "free market" group that receives funding from Sunoco, the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, and the Allegheny Foundation of Pittsburgh of the Scaife Family Foundations, veteran funders of climate change denial in the United States. The national organization, Americans for Prosperity, also has lobbied against RGGI; they are funded by the Koch foundation, which has made billions from fossil fuel production and hope to keep the status quo. That is, the most vocal opponents of are those who have a direct interest in maintaining the status quo and who prioritize their own wealth at the expense of the health and jobs of the majority of the population of this state. If RGGI does not get put in place, the citizens of PA will know that corruption held sway and that rather than a democracy, our state has been sold to a handful of people with the deepest pockets.

Another important issue is that climate change is destabilizing people's livelihoods outside the U.S., sparking migration to the U.S. from countries ranging from Syria to Honduras. As a cultural anthropologist who has conducted research in Bolivia for more than 20 years, I have seen first-hand what has happened there as a result of human-caused climate change. There are entire cities, such as Cochabamba, La Paz, and El Alto, in highland Bolivia, are at severe risk for running out of water as a result of recent droughts and the shrinking of glaciers that supply drinking water. As water has dried up, destitute people are forced to pay the bulk of their income to buy water from water trucks. Lack of water for drinking and washing has contributed to a large toll taken by the coronavirus, as well.

Please, please approve PA's entrance into RGGI.

Thank you,

Miriam Shakow, Ph.D.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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