



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:30 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:

Keith Hess
 Vice-President Berwick Area School Board (khess@berwicksd.org)
 87 Ruckle Hill Rd
 Berwick, PA 18603 US

Comments entered:

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing on the behalf of the Berwick Area School District to proudly voice our support for Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This letter was unanimously approved by all nine board members at the January 11, 2021 meeting of the Berwick Area School Board.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has taught us just how important healthy lungs are. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is the country's fourth-largest producer of carbon emissions, and all that air pollution chips away at our lung health and puts residents at even greater risk of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

However, the main benefit of RGGI is the major role nuclear power plays in the state of Pennsylvania, not to mention the Berwick Area School District. As the Chair of the Budget Committee for the Berwick Area School District, I see firsthand the vital role nuclear power plays in our yearly budget since we have the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station located within our school district. The Berwick Area School District generates substantial property tax revenue from our nuclear power plant, not to mention substantial earned income tax revenue from the individuals employed at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. Pennsylvania entering into

RGGI would level the playing field between nuclear power and natural gas fired power plants as nuclear power is a clean energy and does not emit carbon emissions. This issue becomes even more vital as nuclear power plants around Pennsylvania begin to shut down, such as Three Mile Island. By Pennsylvania entering into RGGI would ensure that nuclear power remains a vital energy source for years to come. Because if Pennsylvania did not enter into RGGI, the Berwick Area School District along with its students would suffer greatly because of the economic impact the closure of our nuclear power plant would cause. This economic hardship would also impact the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due to the lost good paying jobs as nuclear power employs many more people than natural gas power.

In conclusion the Berwick Area School District supports RGGI not only for the health benefits for the citizens in our community, but for the economic benefits that our current nuclear power plant provides for our district, community and state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Keith Hess
Vice-President Berwick Area School Board
Chair of the Budget Committee

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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