



**Peace Committee Letter to the Environmental Quality Board Representatives
on the proposed Carbon Regulations**

Dear Environmental Quality Board Representatives:

The Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends strongly supports the adoption of a carbon market in Pennsylvania and endorses the decision to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the Nation's oldest carbon market. It is a comprehensive long-term and comprehensive method of addressing global climate change by reducing CO2 emissions in Pennsylvania. If we adopt the proposed regulations, Pennsylvania's carbon market has the potential to be extremely beneficial to all Pennsylvanians. Properly structured, Pennsylvania's carbon market can:

- **Lower greenhouse gas emissions** significantly and steadily, reducing air pollution statewide and helping to mitigate climate change
- **Create jobs statewide;** The DEP estimates that 27,000 net new jobs will be created statewide by 2030. Job creation is absolutely critical as unemployment now stands above 13% in Pennsylvania.
- **Grow the economy statewide;** Gross state product will increase by at least \$1.9 Billion by 2030. Economic recovery from the pandemic is urgent. Given the dramatic reduction in tax revenues, we must grow the economy in a sustainable way that does not depend on public funding.
- **Improve public health;** RGGI will save at least 639 lives and provide \$6.3 billion in improvements to the health of Pennsylvanians by 2030, by reducing the severity of asthma, other respiratory disease, heart disease and many other health problems caused and exacerbated by air pollution and climate change.
- **Lower energy costs** and save the average Pennsylvanian money through the extensive investment in energy efficiency statewide.
- **Reduce the energy burden on low income and communities of color.**

RGGI harnesses market forces to reduce carbon emissions in a cost-effective way. Its cap and invest structure and the anticipated investment of auction allowance proceeds in energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, carbon sequestration and other carbon mitigation efforts will enable the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to accomplish a number of additional goals:

1. It will insure that we meet the target of lowering emissions by at least 3% each year.
2. Pennsylvania will do so at the lowest possible price. Carbon markets have been shown to reduce energy prices in RGGI states more significantly than in non-RGGI states.
3. Carbon sequestration in soil and the expansion of solar energy will help to save family farms by providing new cash crops.
4. Pennsylvania will be able to relieve some of the energy burden on low and low moderate income households by improving the energy efficiency of homes statewide.
5. Pennsylvania will be able to support a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.

While we understand that there may be some loss of jobs in the coal, oil, gas, and other fossil fuel industries that now are so prominent in PA, these losses are outweighed by the increase in jobs that will

occur because of RGGI. Also, we urge the Commonwealth to help workers in those industries transition equitably to other jobs. We further urge the Commonwealth to help fossil fuel companies in their transitions, perhaps using new or old techniques and infrastructure with which they are already familiar.

We strongly urge the Environmental Quality Board to approve the DEP regulations expeditiously in order to implement Pennsylvania's carbon market in a timely manner. As climate change, high unemployment, structural job loss caused by the pandemic, and a public health crisis continue to bear down on our beloved Pennsylvania, RGGI offers us a timely opportunity to improve our world.

Sincerely, on behalf of our Quaker community,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Rosenwein".

Linda Rosenwein

Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting

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