



CO2 Budget Trading Program

January 03, 2021

I would like to "firmly" state that I am in complete disagreement with our Governors' choice to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I do not know what he is thinking and would like to know how he thinks this would benefit hardworking Pennsylvanians. Wolfe's plan to join into the group of New England states to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 all sounds great under the guise of saving the environment, but as he lives his pampered life with no concern about how his actions will affect the rest of us perhaps, he should consider our thoughts. According to the US Energy Information Administration the United States CO2 emissions in 2019 were the lowest they have been since 1992. Per capita emissions were lower in 2019 than they've been at any time since at least 1950. Record keeping of CO2 in the environment didn't even start until 1958. Think about that. Only 62 years of record keeping. Our earth has been warming and oceans have been rising since the last ice age, 10,000 years ago. That is a pimple on the multi-billion years' time line of our earth. 62 years of record keeping to determine a major change in our state's economy and the people's livelihoods? It is time that government officials stop this mentality of thinking that they know what is best for us. Hopefully this comment period is not just a ruse to make the people feel like they REALLY did have a say, but in reality, the decision has already been made. That seems to be very common in politics these days.

RGGI is a "Cap and Trade" scheme that will destroy the economies of many communities and cause major job losses to thousands if not millions of hardworking, taxpaying, voters in Pennsylvania. As a resident of western Pennsylvania. I have many friends and relatives that work in and around the power plants and coal mines of our area. There are also thousands of spin-off jobs that will be lost due to the closure of these industries, unnecessary taxation and further regulation of these companies. Our economies have already been stifled by Pennsylvania's over regulation and taxation of its' businesses and its' citizens. Pennsylvania is known as "the land of taxes" and it is NOT a good moniker on our great state. The closure of many businesses due to the Governors' shut down response to the recent Covid scare has already ruined many small employers and businesses. There obviously is no "common sense" in Harrisburg as to how this will negatively affect our lives. As a former coal miner and teacher, I have witnessed whole school districts that depend on these power plants and other employers to sustain their educational programs through the taxes that these employers pay locally. Once the businesses are killed off, it then falls on the property owners to foot the tax bill. Over the course of my lifetime, I have watched as the state regulations and taxation has successfully closed mines, steel plants and many other manufacturers because of unfriendly governmental business practices and ruined entire communities. Perhaps we as a state need to think about this. It is NOT for the betterment of the people.

This Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is nothing more than a power grab and a tax scheme being perpetrated on the American people. There are 12 PA colleges and Universities participating in this initiative. Those same schools are state funded and will be using state tax dollars to entrench this scheme. With funds from the Dept. of Energy (a Jimmy Carter gift to us all that has done nothing to help develop energy), the DEP has enlisted the nonprofit **ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability** to provide these teams with training and one to one technical assistance. And then "presuming" funding will become available, the DEP plans to extend this scheme to another 20 communities. Who in the DEP is pushing this scheme? And WHY? To who's benefit and please don't tell me, "the peoples".

Wind and solar power have NOT been perfected enough to pick up the slack when these larger plants decide it's not worth the cost to keep running due to more state regulations and taxes. That is Governor Wolfes' entire plan. If he can't outright shut them down, then he'll regulate them out of business. Total politics and we, the people, DO NOT like it. It's an agenda that is being perpetrated through the guise of the environment.

I agree that once battery storage has been perfected and accomplished and we as a nation have the ability to produce and store solar and wind power, then and only then can we begin to reduce our dependence on coal and oil for power production. Folks, that is down the road a ways. That is where state funding and taxes need to be

appropriated. Further research on how to cleanly utilize our existing coal reserves to keep these existing, job producing, tax paying jobs that benefit everyone. We as a state are sitting on an abundance of opportunities in coal, gas and oil and could be a leader as a power producing state and a jobs creator. Until then we can utilize clean coal technology and fracking to save family sustaining jobs and the thousands of jobs from smaller industries and businesses that are created by these larger industries. That only makes common sense. Instead, our elected and appointed leaders have decided to kill those opportunities and join in a job crushing scheme called RGGI.

As a major power producer Pennsylvania has the potential to lead the nation in clean coal technology and to provide strong support for these industries, not cut them off at the knees and weaken the entire economy at the same time.

As stated earlier, RGGI is nothing more than a scheme, an attempt to allow the Agenda 3030 group to start shaping America and its economy. This is the start of the weakening of America and the eventual loss of individual rights and hopes of a better life. The promise of Green energy supplying replacement jobs, comparable to the jobs that we already have is a pipe dream at this time. When we elect these people to office, we elect them to follow our Constitution and our laws as written, NOT to enact their own private agendas and to go against the wishes of the people that pay their wages.

This ridiculous attempt to join RGGI by Governor Wolfe through a veto, when it has been voted down by our local State Representatives and Senators needs to be stopped right now for the sake of all of us out here in "taxpayer land". The land of common sense and the place where we have to pay for our necessities out of our own pockets with the crumbs left to us by our "out of touch" state elected and appointed officials.

DEP personnel are comprised of appointed and hired people and as such should be held to a standard of all workers. They should not have the power to place judgement over the voters and taxpayers of PA. The results of any and all actions they take should be accountable to the people of Pennsylvania and any and all jobs lost due to these actions should be dealt with accordingly. If approved then DEP should be held accountable alongside of all elected officials that approved this debacle and lose their jobs as well. There is too much power placed in too few hands when it comes to decision making in our great Commonwealth.

This is one time where the people making these decisions need to step back and think long and hard about the implications of their actions. As taxpayers we have been taking a beating for far too long to see this final nail placed in the lid of our job coffins. We are frustrated day after day as we watch elected and unelected officials squander our tax dollars on these "feel good" schemes while we are supposed to sit back and be happy with it all. This Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is NOT a good idea for not only Pennsylvanians, but for any Americans and it should be stopped NOW! It will have no positive effect on our state. It is nothing more than another tax by government on the people, because we the people will be the ones that ultimately have to pay for our official's mistakes. STOP THIS RGGI scheme NOW!

Thank you from a concerned voting, taxpaying, property owner,

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