



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 7:25 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:

Cheri McPherson
 (highlandlassie@verizon.net)
 1051 Redding Run Rd
 Creekside, PA 15732 US

Comments entered:

I am writing in opposition to Gov Wolf enrolling Pennsylvania in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This program would devastate Indiana County's economy. We are a county that for the most part, is lacking jobs that pay well. Too many of the jobs that paid a substantial wage are gone. This program targets the remaining jobs that do pay well. The natural gas industry, the few remaining coal mines, and the electric generating stations will all be affected by this program. Some of the only people I know that do better and are not in a constant struggle to pay their bills and expenses are those who work in the natural gas field.

When I was 15 my Dad's coal mine closed. Our family was devastated. And to be honest, we never recovered from having that job lost. My Dad was two years shy of full pension. Two little years, and it left us with nothing. My Mom who had not worked in years outside the home had to go find work. My Dad struggled to find a job that could pay half what the mine paid him. Or one that wanted to hire him at age 50. I even ended up working part time after school in order to be able to buy myself school clothes and items I needed to take some of the weight off of them. I don't want to see that happen to other families.

When we lose jobs like these, everyone loses. There is less money to spend. Which means less purchases in general. People move away because they cannot find work and cannot afford to live. Everyone deserves the opportunity to be responsible for themselves and their family and earn a liveable wage. Decisions like these by Governors never seem to take into account the people that they devastate.

Furthermore, there is little evidence that CO2 emissions pose an actual environmental threat. In fact, 20,000 scientists, some of whom were physicists, geophysicists, climatologists, meteorologists, oceanographers, or environmental scientists signed the following statement:

"There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial side effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth."

We have, for years, had natural fluctuations in temperature on the earth. The Little Ice Age and the Medieval Warm Period were both times when there were natural fluctuations. Decreased sun activity and increased volcanic activity can all cause these. The Little Ice Age's most likely cause was a decrease in the sun's activity and an increase in volcanic activity that year. During that time all the glaciers advanced. These things can still cause a change in our temperatures. What about in the 1970's when there was a cooling trend and we saw the ocean ice increase. That was a time frame when carbon dioxide should have been warming the temperatures. Not cooling them. Naturally occurring water vapors in our atmosphere have a far greater impact on temperature than CO2 does.

The causes of climate change are so complex that they need to be studied more thoroughly and in depth to be fully understood. How can we plug information into computer models if we don't fully understand natural fluctuation's causes? If I plug incorrect information in, will I get an accurate prediction? No! Not even close. And yet here we are jumping on the bandwagon and we don't even know if the computer models are correct. I do not believe the computer models are correct. There are too many variables that are too hard to predict for them to be accurate, clouds, precipitation, ocean processes, snow and ice reflectivity just to name a few.

We are in a climate change, true, I believe we are. But is that necessarily an evil thing? Would there be any pluses to warming? There would be. There would be an increased growing period for agriculture. More plants would absorb more carbon dioxide. There should be less death. Almost 10 times more deaths result from extreme cold, than result from extreme heat. A warming of the world should cause us to see less deaths from extreme cold.

God created the world we live in. He created it to sustain us and provide for us and shelter us. In Genesis 8:22 God says: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall NOT CEASE." God promises in Genesis 8 that the earth will remain. He did not create our world and then take his hands off and walk away. He was in control in the beginning and is still in control now. Should we be good stewards of the earth and care for it? Yes we should. Should we care about the environment and how we affect it? Yes we should. But we should also care about our fellow man and his ability to survive. Enrolling us in a program that would cause people to lose jobs, homes, and their ability to provide, based on a computer model and science that is at its very core extremely debatable, is a reckless decision. Please reconsider enrolling Pennsylvania in the RGGI program. The people of this state deserve to keep their jobs and their homes. They deserve to have a Governor that takes them into consideration and does not make decisions that ruin their lives. They deserve a Governor who listens to what the people of his state say to him. They deserve to have this reconsidered until as such time more reliable studies and more reliable information can be used.

Sincerely,
Cheri McPherson

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov