



KARBON

01.10.2021

**Testimony for Regional
Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

Kevin Malawski, AIA

kevin@karbonarchitects.com

Architect

Karbon Architects, LLC
2530 E Lehigh Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19125

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kevin Malawski. I run a small architecture practice in Philadelphia focusing on commercial and multifamily projects. My testimony is in strong support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).. As an architect, I am familiar with the great effort and expense required to bring a project from blueprints to a fully constructed building. Every project we design comes with inherent costs. Some we see directly, such as monetary costs. But each project also comes with a price tag that is more difficult to see, such as environmental and social impacts.

While my practice may be small, the industry is large. As a result, the construction and operations of buildings account for almost 40% of all carbon emissions as indicated in research by Architecture 2030.

Carbon isn't free. It comes with a high cost to the environment and to the communities affected by the emissions throughout Pennsylvania. We see these impacts on the news every day in the form of flooding, heat waves, and air quality issues. We must recognize the source of this and take actionable steps to improve the situation.

This is why I am in support of RGGI. RGGI is not a tax, it is a reinvestment program. The revenue raised from the program can be reinvested in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. With this additional monetary support, Pennsylvania will be able to reduce the amount of carbon emissions used by buildings while also lowering the amount of carbon it takes to construct a project thanks to the boost in renewable energy sources.



KARBON

Manufacturers and building owners will be incentivized to use sustainable energy sources. They will seek to reduce their energy use by installing or upgrading to more efficient systems. As a result, the market for these services will expand, creating more jobs in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The renewable energy market is already one of the fastest growing sectors in the country. The investment of revenues from RGGI will prevent our state from lagging behind any longer and will help capture some of these high-quality jobs for hard working Pennsylvanians.

Pennsylvania is known for its carbon producing legacy, predominantly in coal and natural gas production. It's time we turn around the State's reputation and look to the future instead of the past. I support RGGI because Pennsylvania deserves better.

Sincerely,

Kevin Malawski, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB

Principal
Karbon Architects