

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:15 PM
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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:

Kelly Flanigan
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Comments entered:

The following is the written version of testimony I gave at the hearing on 12/8 at 1pm:

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to comment today. My name is Kelly Flanigan, I currently live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up in the Philly suburbs. Pennsylvania is, and always has been, my home. And that's why I'm here today. I am so deeply concerned about what our future looks like here in Pennsylvania and throughout the rest of the United States if we don't take immediate steps to combat the climate crisis, including joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I'll be 27 on Thursday and as a relatively young person living in Pennsylvania today, I'm honestly terrified of what my future is going to look like if we don't take action. There's a reason that these movements are being led by young people. We're the ones who will feel the effects of our continued inaction. And we already are.

When I was little, my mom and I would go skiing in the Poconos all winter long. In middle and high school, I spent my Friday nights skiing and snowboarding at Bear Creek with my friends. But now we're lucky if we get one late-season ski trip because the ski resorts are not getting enough natural snow and it's often not cold enough for them to make artificial snow.

Climate change is no longer some distant threat. We're feeling its impacts right here, right now. And it's not just about getting less snow in the winter. Increasing summer temperatures are making everyday activities more dangerous for our most vulnerable populations and exacerbating already poor air quality in our cities. Agriculture and outdoor recreation industries are taking a serious hit as the timing and length of our seasons change and as increasingly dangerous extreme weather events pummel our communities.

Climate change is affecting our health, it's affecting our economy, and it's affecting our quality of life. And not just here in Pennsylvania. All around the country and around the world, people are already suffering due to the climate crisis. So it's outrageous to me that there are still people out there who want to continue the status quo. That people want to continue allowing one of our most polluting industries to keep pumping out greenhouse gases without limits. That's why joining RGGI is such a critical first step for Pennsylvania. We're the fourth largest greenhouse gas emitter in the country. At one time, Pennsylvania contributed 1% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions -- that's more than some entire countries just from our state. We need to move away from our fossil fuel past and take this step forward.

It's time to make Pennsylvania a clean energy leader. By requiring companies to pay for how much they pollute, we can drive down climate and air pollution, inject much-needed money into our state's economy, and create thousands of good jobs right here in Pennsylvania.

Above all else, we need to create a safe, liveable climate for generations to come, and RGGI is the first step for Pennsylvania. So I urge the state to join this critical program as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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