



The Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Chairperson
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Chairperson McDonnell:

The Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is very concerned about the local and global effects of climate change. Based on the latest scientific evidence, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that human society may be approaching a “tipping point” after which it may not be possible to avoid some catastrophic negative effects of climate change.

As noted in the Rulemaking discussion on Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, economists have demonstrated that direct regulation (e.g., imposing particular control technologies) engenders more resistance and is more costly than programs that raise the cost of pollution-related behaviors. A cap-and-trade program such as RGGI can do this. A quick web search for “cost savings due to RGGI” will provide evidence from credible sources that the program has resulted in average emissions reductions greater than the average in the rest of the US, and substantial investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and low-income household assistance. The former two are expected to lower electricity prices in the longer term, and to be more job-intensive than traditional fossil-fuel power production.

Given the demonstrated success in the 10-year history of the RGGI program, it is the strong recommendation of the Abington Township EAC that Pennsylvania join the coalition. The local, national and global net economic and social benefits are expected to be substantial. They can help mitigate serious climate effects as the Commonwealth and the US work through the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic downturn, and social justice issues.

Sincerely,

James N. Webb, Chair

Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council