



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:42 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:

Christopher Rogers
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 1288 Lancaster Avenue
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Comments entered:

I wholeheartedly endorse the proposed rule for a carbon dioxide budget trading program, as iterated by the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board. In shorter parlance, I believe my home state of Pennsylvania absolutely should join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Relative to all other states that have thus far participated in RGGI, Pennsylvania stands out as the state whose economy is most reliant on the production of fossil fuels. This fact renders Pennsylvania one of the greatest emitters of carbon dioxide pollution in the entire United States. The Commonwealth therefore has a moral imperative to lead the way in the transformation of its energy supply to one that mitigates the climate crisis rather than perpetuates and exacerbates it.

For more than a decade now, the RGGI program has vividly demonstrated its multi-faceted success in the other member states: carbon emissions have substantially decreased, citizens of low-income have received financial assistance with their energy bills, electricity prices have decreased, renewable energy infrastructure has increased, and state economies have indeed improved.

The specific achievements of RGGI to date are quite impressive. According to a 2019 analysis by

the Acadia Center, electricity prices decreased 5.7% in RGGI-member states between 2008 and 2017, while states not participating in RGGI witnessed an overall increase in electricity prices of 8.6% during that same period. Additionally, RGGI-member states have enjoyed 31% more economic growth than the rest of the nation between 2008 and 2018, and carbon dioxide emissions decreased 90% faster in RGGI-member states relative to the rest of the United States. Even the most skeptical perspective on these figures cannot deny the fact that the implementation of RGGI has not antagonized economic growth.

Pennsylvania now faces a precious opportunity to join this powerful program and prove to the rest of the nation - and even the world - that market-based carbon trading mechanisms can simultaneously lower greenhouse emissions and other air pollutants AND stimulate the economy. I am confident that RGGI will manifest remarkable progress in Pennsylvania, and once there are numbers to validate this progress, it will clearly signal to outsiders that carbon pricing is the most expedient solution to the climate crisis. Pennsylvania can then take great pride in its national and global leadership. The time for Pennsylvania to join RGGI is right now, the world cannot wait.

I just graduated with a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England. During the Spring 2020 semester, I took a doctorate-level Political Economy course, and I studied RGGI and its relevance to my home state of Pennsylvania. I wish to share my deliverables for that course with you here. I am attaching three documents:

"RGGI Slides - Chris Rogers" - a PDF of *some* of the Power Point slides I used to give a presentation on this topic (Note: due to the 10 MB size restraint for uploading files, I had to remove many slides and keep only the most relevant ones)

"RGGI Presentation Script - Chris Rogers" - a Word document of the script I used when delivering said slideshow presentation (note this is NOT a formal academic paper and due to the need to edit the slide document above, the script is no longer in sync with this slide show)

"Chris Rogers - RGGI Paper - May 2020" - a Word document that is a formal academic paper on the topic

Thank you for your consideration of my comments!

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [RGGI Slides - Chris Rogers.pdf](#)

Comments Attachment: [RGGI Presentation Script - Chris Rogers.docx](#)

Comments Attachment: [Chris Rogers - RGGI Paper - May 2020.docx](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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