



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:52 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:

B. Arrindell
 Damacus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS@DamacusCitizens.org)
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Comments entered:

The proposed carbon trading arrangements for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) are not perfect, they are however, a definite step in the right direction and we strongly encourage Pennsylvania to participate.

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (<https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org>) with its 5,000 members, many in PA, has worked for over 12 years toward a low carbon future without fracking and its related damages to health and environment (<http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>), but with greater energy efficiency and clean air, water and land - all made more possible with the types of reforms in RGGI.

'Business-as-usual' energy policies will take us over the climate catastrophe edge even faster than currently predicted. 2020 was the warmest year on record with the largest number of weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each to affect the United States in a year. These 22 events included 1 drought event, 13 severe storm events, 7 tropical cyclone events, and 1 wildfire event (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>). RGGI policies will slow greenhouse gas emissions and climate warming hopefully the number of these serious events.

Yes, the pandemic has curtailed many activities in 2020, but it has not halted the increase of greenhouse gasses, only reduced the rate of increase. We must use all available tools to tackle

this deadly problem - it cannot be ignored. The RGGI structure is a very good start, especially as it can be adjusted later with the regional approach strengthening the impact. The PA DEP layout about RGGI is very comprehensive and thorough including some good modeling, though whether we will be able to slow the increase in greenhouse gas emissions in time to keep our global climate livable is a question, but we must start positive moves toward solutions and RGGI is good start.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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