



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:33 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:

Mitchell Hescox
 The Evangelical Environmental Network (mitch@creationcare.org)
 24 East Franklin Street
 New Freedom, PA 17349 US

Comments entered:

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
 Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 The Honorable Patrick McDonnell
 Secretary of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 Harrisburg, PA

Ref: CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulations - 50 Pa.B. 6212

Dear Governor Wolf and Secretary McDonnell:

Today, we are pleased to submit the comments of 30,562 Pennsylvania Pro-life Christians who state:

As a pro-life Christian, I am deeply concerned that pollution harms unborn and born children and causes damage that lasts a lifetime. Dirty air has grave consequences for the health of our children and other vulnerable populations, like the elderly. That's why I support Governor Wolf's plan to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative that will apply market-based solutions to

reduce the health impacts from power plant pollution, helping boost jobs and save precious lives in Pennsylvania.

As a conservative Christian Community, we know that Pennsylvania is the third largest greenhouse gas polluting state and has the fifth dirtiest power plant industry in the nation, putting the health of Pennsylvania children, both born and unborn, squarely in harm's ways.

By joining RGGI, we can achieve significant pollution reduction, defend our kids' health, create more than 27,000 net jobs, and add \$1.9 billion to the state's economy. The health benefits to Pennsylvania are also enormous, including \$6.3 billion in health care savings, 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory illnesses like asthma among children and adults, and 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis.

As pro-life Pennsylvania Christians, we are concerned that fossil fuel pollution exacerbates health issues and puts lives at risk, especially for more than 257,000 of our children and over 1 million Pennsylvania adults who already battle asthma. According to The American Lung Association's State of the Air 2020, smog levels are increasing in Pennsylvania as climate change increases temperatures and multiplies asthma attacks.

Experiencing an asthma attack is traumatic. These attacks interrupt normal breathing activity and are said to be akin to experiencing severe sunburn on the inside of the lungs. What's more, increased temperatures caused by fossil fuel warming are a leading factor behind the growing incidents of insect-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease (with an estimated 120,000 cases per year in PA) and West Nile Virus.

Medical research concludes that over 2,700 Pennsylvanians died prematurely in 2018 from Pennsylvania's air pollution problem, including pollution produced by the electricity generation industry. Our pollution is also believed to have contributed to more than 2,300 premature deaths in other states as well (2018). All told, Pennsylvania holds the inauspicious claim of having the third most air pollution-related deaths in the U.S., after California and New York.

In closing, creating a hope-filled future for all Pennsylvanians requires RGGI proceeds to be used in four separate ways:

1. Sufficient funding for a just transition for fossil fuel workers who are owed a debt for their years of service and endured exacerbated health risks.
2. Support for communities of color and lower economic status individual who through red-lining and other racist acts have been forced to live in areas of highest pollution.
3. Robust energy efficiency programs to reduce overall energy use and guard against any increased energy cost.
4. Invest in renewable energy and supply increased availability through community solar and similar policy options.

Submitted by

The Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox
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The Remainder of the names are submitted on the pdf. EEN_1-14-2021_PA DEP_RGGI
Comments.

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

Comments Attachment: [EEN_1-14-2021_PA DEP_RGGI Comments.pdf](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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