



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:01 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:

Megan Zeigler
 Green Building Alliance (meganz@gbapgh.org)
 333 East Carson Street, Suite 331
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 US

Comments entered:

January 5, 2021

I write today to formally support Pennsylvania's proposed enrollment in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) on behalf of Green Building Alliance (GBA), a nonprofit organization located in Pittsburgh, PA. GBA's mission is to advance innovation in the built environment by empowering people to create environmentally, economically, and socially vibrant places. GBA envisions a world where every building and community is sustainable so that every person can thrive. Founded in 1993, GBA currently serves 26 counties within Western Pennsylvania.

As an organization we oversee both the Pittsburgh 2030 and Erie 2030 Districts which sets goals for high-performance building by committing landmark properties to 50 percent reductions in energy use, water consumption, and transportation emissions by 2030, while improving indoor air quality. The Pittsburgh 2030 District is the largest 2030 District in the world and the first to include an indoor air quality metric. The robust network of 556 properties (representing more than 86.3 million sq ft) has reduced energy use by 23.1%, water use by 19.8%, and carbon dioxide emissions from transportation 26%, while saving \$154.5 million and avoiding over 1,488,345 metric tons of CO2 to date. GBA unites the region's most influential developers, investors, and policymakers to dramatically advance sustainable solutions, establishing Western

Pennsylvania as an international leader in high-performance building because we acknowledge the imperative role the built environment has on reducing carbon emissions.

Pittsburgh faces a multitude of climate change and health-related risks. Pittsburgh ranks among the worst in the country for air quality leading to higher asthma, cancer, respiratory, and other health risks. This extends to the county level as Allegheny County ranks in the top 2 percent in the US for cancer risk from air pollution. Our increasingly extreme weather patterns and poor outside air quality present disproportionate burdens on low-income residents and Pittsburgh's aging population. Additionally, research is indicating the region's poor air quality is further exacerbating the impacts of COVID-19, leaving our more vulnerable. Recent studies also show a correlation between extreme weather events and child abuse and trauma. Furthermore, Pittsburgh ranks as one of the highest cities in the country for energy poverty or burden – the amount of an individual's income that is spent on utility bills. A changing climate exacerbates this challenge for many of our region's residents.

The time is now to make strong commitments to address the impact of climate change. Fee structures such as RGGI are a step in the right direction. While the impacts will not be immediate, this initiative will advance energy efficiency improvements, encourage cleaner grid energy sources, and provide livable wage employment options across the Commonwealth. RGGI is a proven tool that other Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states have utilized drastically to reduce carbon emissions and Pennsylvania can join those states in further aid in cleaning the air, stabilizing electricity costs, and building a strong economy. I encourage the Commonwealth to enter the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for the betterment of all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jenna Cramer Megan Zeigler
Executive Director Vice President of Planning and Policy

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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