

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 3:32 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-jflanaga@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:

Susan Patrone
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Comments entered:

Dear DEP Regulatory Comments,

I am writing to urge the Department of Environmental Protection to finalize as soon as possible proposed rule making allowing Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) beginning in January 2022.

Our state has a great responsibility to reduce emissions.

Pennsylvania is #5 in the nation in the dirty electric power sector

Being close to the top in this case is a dubious distinction.

Going to the bottom if this list is a step in the right direction.

We now have the partners, data and tools to transition to the top of a clean energy and economic viability list.

Linking with RGGI would be a monumental step in this right direction.

This CO2 Budget Trading Program will significantly reduce harmful carbon pollution and protect public health.

The proceeds from RGGI will allow us to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. This will position us to become a leader in the growing clean energy economy.

Pennsylvania will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in proceeds annually from this program.

These funds can be invested in targeted efforts to

- Eliminate air pollution,
- Spur job creation, to support working Pennsylvanians,
- Boost the state's long-term economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Set aside a portion of the proceeds be used to help workers and communities who will be affected by the ongoing and inevitable transition of the energy market away from coal and natural gas to cleaner sources of generation.

The devil is in the details. These are details you already know. Now they can be framed informing a sustainable solution. Some of these are

- Providing a mechanism to adjust the starting allowance budget if actual emissions are lower than currently projected
- Amending the definition of legacy programs
- Using a set-aside account included in the proposed rule and urge that this set-aside account survive independently of the waste coal set-aside

This is the time to invest in sustainable jobs in our transitioning energy sector, and reduce our carbon pollution

RGGI is a win-win.

It combines the best of transitioning solutions, our economy, and our environmental sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Patrone

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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