



Good afternoon, my name is Anna Loudenslager. I'm here in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI.

Climate change is a real and immanent threat. In 2018, 13 of our own federal agencies released a report showing how global warming will impact our country in the not to distant future. It listed reduced agricultural yields due to crop failures and increased wildfires damaging infrastructure and supply chains among the issues we'll face by the end of this century. It concluded that up to 10% of our nation's economy could be lost by 2100. Failure to address global warming will also burden our healthcare system through environmentally linked maladies such as respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Also, increased numbers of severe weather events could cause further disruption to our lives. All told, many, many aspects of our lives will be negatively affected if we don't take significant action.

For many years, our federal government has shown an unwillingness to take environmental issues seriously. Congress has demonstrated very little appetite to tackle big, bold legislative initiatives and any executive action taken by one president can simply be undone by the next. Our federal EPA is subject to budget cuts and media demonization brought on by those who, for some reason, choose to deny the severity of the issues we all face. The United States has turned it's back on multinational climate change initiatives at least twice, opting out of the Kyoto Protocol in the early 2000's and the Paris Agreement on November 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. For these reasons, leadership on climate issues may need to come at the state level.

In RGGI, Pennsylvania has opportunity to join eleven other eastern states in a cap and trade system that was established in 2005. By doing so, our state can join an organization that is already established rather than trying to do something just within our own state. Since 2005, states belonging to RGGI have reduced their power plant carbon emissions by 40%, while their state economies have grown by 8%. While multiple factors may have contributed to those results, studies show that RGGI played a major role in achieving these numbers.

Once you look at the cost of carbon allowances and compare it to the benefits our state, and country I hope you'll support the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Thank you for your time.