



Hi, my name is David Bertenthal and I live at 3955 Boulevard Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15217

It's nice to be here to talk about something that will help our state and our country. I support RGGI, a program that will work to maintain that Pennsylvania remains habitable for our current and future generations.

RGGI is good, because it holds power generating industries financially accountable for the damage we know their pollution does to the planet and human health.

As I write this letter our house is filled with the acrid sulfur smell from industrial pollution and greenhouse emissions. For years our local plant has refused to clean up or filter their emissions so tonight my lungs are doing the job. These are the same kinds of externalities that play out in our energy production. We pay higher taxes, and increased insurance when climate change causes flooding, high winds, and extreme weather events that damage homes, roads and infrastructure. When industrial pollution makes us sick we are burdened with hospital bills that can ruin lives. An extremely rare bone cancer called Ewing (you-wing) Sarcoma occurs in clusters around areas of fracking. The energy sector doesn't factor in the cost of your hospital treatment, or lost wages. It may seem morbid, but they don't pay for the funerals or the impact to families for those that die because of respiratory or heart related disease.

We are facing an energy generation sector that has no answers for the impending climate crisis, and a republican legislature that props up these polluting industries as opposed to cleaner energy generation. It's as if they lack the foresight to protect their own future generations from what most certainly will come, if we do not act to protect our environment. With RGGI cap and reduce, corporate profits don't have to be at odds with public health.

Pennsylvania's power sector, currently the fifth dirtiest in the nation, can achieve significant emission reductions through RGGI while driving investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, including targeted efficiency for low-income consumers. Since RGGI started in 2009, participating states have cut their carbon emissions 90 percent faster than the rest of the country.

RGGI has a 10-year history of delivering health and climate benefits to participating states. Residents in the Northeast are now experiencing significantly fewer premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses.

If you look at the Northeast part of the country it looks like a RGGI puzzle where all the states to the east have signed on, and they are renewing because it's made a positive impact to public health and their economies. The following Eastern Seaboard states: Maryland, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. Plus, New Jersey is scheduled to rejoin RGGI next year.

We are the missing **puzzle-piece**, it's right there on the table. We know exactly where it goes, we just need (the will) to put it in place. I strongly support joining RGGI. I strongly support joining RGGI. Thank you.