



**Public Testimony – 12/11/2020**

**RE: Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)  
To the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board regarding the proposed rulemaking of the CO2 budget trading program and Pennsylvania becoming a RGGI member.

My name is Ron Celentano, and I live and work at 7821 Flourtown Avenue, Wyndmoor, PA 19038. I am President of the Pennsylvania Solar & Storage Industries Association (“PASSIA”), and I’m also the Pennsylvania Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association (“MSSIA”). PASSIA is a Division of MSSIA, where MSSIA is a not-for-profit trade association made up of businesses and professionals working in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware involved in the development, manufacturing, design, construction and installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) and energy storage systems.

I also co-lead the Renewables Work for PA coalition, which includes more than 100 renewable energy businesses working together to increase Pennsylvania’s renewable energy markets.

In addition, I am a solar PV industry consultant with my own company, Celentano Energy Services, and have been doing a wide range of technical solar PV work mostly in Pennsylvania for nearly 25 years.

Collectively, we strongly support Pennsylvania developing the details of a CO2 cap-and-trade program and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Considering Pennsylvania is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest greenhouse gas emitter in the US, it is long overdue that Pennsylvania becomes a RGGI member, along with ten other Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. Over the last 12 years, RGGI states have reduced their CO2 emissions by 47%; and the electricity prices in those states have dropped by 5.7%, while prices have increased in the rest of the country by 8.6%.

The DEP estimates by joining RGGI, Pennsylvania will reduce 188 million tons of CO2 pollution by 2030, or about 25% in 8 years. At the same time, it will create more than 27,000 new jobs and add nearly \$2 billion to the state's economy. RGGI could generate as much as \$3 billion in revenue for the Commonwealth by 2030, most of which can be invested in the state's energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation sectors, by way of workforce development, special project development for non-profit businesses and schools, and underserved communities, and much more, as it pertains to the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan.

Of course there are many other benefits for the Commonwealth as a result of joining RGGI, as testified by so many already. But, at the same time the RGGI cap-and-trade program is starting to be established, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS) will be plateauing. The AEPS is essentially a market driven program that grows the penetration of renewables and other alternative energy projects in Pennsylvania. However, the Tier 1 part of the AEPS is currently set at of 8% renewables with 0.5% in-state solar, which will

flat line at the end of May, 2021. Although proceeds that would be generated from RGGI could be used for supporting renewables and energy efficiency, it can't be emphasized enough that RGGI cannot grow these markets alone, for it cannot take the place of the AEPS or even Act 129. The AEPS needs to be extended and expanded to grow the renewable energy market, which will greatly compliment what RGGI can achieve with reducing green house gases, stimulating the economy, create jobs, and so much more.

Thank you.