



Indiana County  
TOURIST BUREAU  
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INDIANA, PA 15701

RECEIVED

Jan 22 2021

Independent Regulatory  
Review Commission

January 8, 2021

Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

I am writing in response to the state joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, also known as RGGI. As a life-long resident of Indiana County, Pennsylvania, and also serving as the Executive Director for Indiana County Tourist Bureau, I can personally and professionally attest to the vital role the many Generation Stations, both in our county and others in close proximity, have to our region.

In addition, the Indiana County residents who would lose their jobs, forcing them to move out of the area as a result of RGGI, the negative impact on tourism would also be detrimental to area economy. Samplings of the ripple effect foreseeably caused by RGGI regarding the tourism industry are as follows:

- Residents move to find new employment, consequently taking business away from our local restaurants, shops, etc. With fewer customers, local businesses will be forced to close.
- Fewer attractive restaurants and shopping establishments diminishes the draw for visitors to come to the area and spend money here. The result? Economy negatively impacted.
- Impact produces an abundance of vacant houses, which become dilapidated with poor curb appeal, thusly becoming ghost towns and destroying the welcoming appeal for prospective visitors.
- Land value decreases causing less appeal for new businesses to develop, while existing businesses don't have resources to better themselves, leading to the economy to begin failing and interest for tourism becomes stagnant.
- Catastrophic ripple effect: People lose jobs and move, thusly resulting in hospitals, schools, emergency services, etc. all having less of a population to assist and forcing them into closure causing a new grouping of people to be out of a job (in addition to those who lost their jobs directly from RGGI) and in turn, the economy is even more negatively affected, causing a perpetuating downward spiral.
- Complete school districts will close causing residents to move out of the county, busing students to other schools, creating long and often dangerous bus rides impacting their quality of life, which can also adversely impact their studying skills and grades.

To reiterate, RGGI would force closures that will cost thousands of jobs, diminish Indiana County as a tourist destination, cripple school districts, and negatively impact area economy. I find it shocking and disconcerting that Pennsylvania would need to import energy instead of exporting it as a result of RGGI. I implore you to take into consideration the above concerns and problems RGGI will cause to Indiana County. Our future depends on you and we are hopeful that you consider the detrimental effects of RGGI.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Denise Liggett*

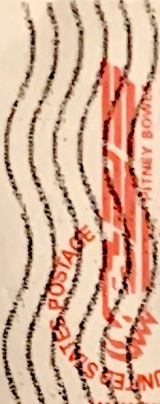
Denise Liggett  
Executive Director

Indiana County  
Tourist Bureau  
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