



Honorable Patrick McDonnell
 Secretary
 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 16th
 Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building
 P.O. Box 2063
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January 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board,

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Pennsylvania
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On behalf of the American Institute of Architects Pennsylvania, and its approximately 2,800 members we are writing to express support for Pennsylvania's implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

AIA Pennsylvania is committed to policies, programs and incentives that: reduce pollution, encourage healthy affordable energy, create new opportunities for prosperity for Pennsylvanians, and limit the effects of climate change. **RGGI present a clear opportunity for Pennsylvania to invest in programs that achieve these goals.**

AIA members and legislators are both obligated to protect Pennsylvanian's right to clean air^{1,2} and the adverse health effects from pollution. We must work together to limit sources of pollution such as emissions that occur from the burning of fossil fuels and migrate to renewable zero-emission energy sources such as wind and solar energy. For too long fossil fuel polluters have been allowed to dump their waste into the sky and have not had to bear the environmental or health impact costs of their emissions. **By placing a cost on carbon, RGGI will allow utility companies to invest in a future that is freer from fossil fuel pollution.**

As architects, we know high performance buildings generate energy savings and optimize the performance and health of occupants. Architects are responsible for designing new buildings and retrofits of existing buildings. As such we are uniquely positioned to be stewards of the health, safety, and welfare of the built environment and in turn, the public at large. **For these reasons we support governmental and private sector carbon trading budget programs such as RGGI that will invest in the creation of more high-performance buildings that operate with low energy costs.**

AIA Pennsylvania believes that entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a step in the right direction to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and any proceeds realized can be reinvested in the Commonwealth. Other RGGI states have invested more than 72% of their proceeds into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, generating over \$4 billion in economic benefits in the form of jobs, consumer utility bill savings, and public-private investment. We believe this move will help to create a better and more sustainable built environment. To date, sustainable energy jobs have reliably grown in

1. A Code of Ethics and Professional Practice, Canon II, E.S 2.3, http://content.aia.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020_Code_of_Ethics.pdf

2. Pennsylvania Constitution, Article I, Section 27 & Article VI, Section 3: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/CT/HTM/00/00.00/..HTM>

Pennsylvania³ and contributed hundreds of billions of dollars to the US and Pennsylvania economies. **RGGI funds will increase this investment and create even more jobs and prosperity for Pennsylvanians.**

Cost savings and economic growth work together. High performance buildings are a job and economic multiplier in an industry that serves as a keystone to job creation, economic stimulus, and community revitalization. For these reasons, we encourage you to implement RGGI and prioritize the following objectives for the investment of RGGI proceeds. Specifically, RGGI proceeds should be used to:

1. Establish a new clean energy economic development office to attract new clean energy manufacturing and provide workforce training programs across the state, especially in those areas most impacted by the changing economics of energy, and to educate Pennsylvanians about the economic benefits of all of these efforts now and for future generations.
2. Offer financing, grants, and low- and no-interest loans to support the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency for all Pennsylvania consumers and businesses.
3. Implement programs that encourage market segments facing unique barriers and requiring focused support, such as low-income households, small businesses, nonprofits, and certain industrial segments, to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
4. Fund services and incentives to help Pennsylvanians reduce their energy use and lower costs for fuels not already served by Pennsylvania's Act 129 programs, including fuel oil, propane, and wood; and to switch from those fuels to high-efficiency electric heating and cooling.
5. Drive investment in distributed renewable energy through programs that support low-income community solar, microgrids powered by renewable energy and energy storage, and innovative grid- storage solutions.
6. Support combined heat and power units that help manufacturers, hospitals, campuses, and other energy-intensive facilities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and reduce energy costs.

The leadership and membership of AIA Pennsylvania has committed to the Architecture 2030 Challenge on Sustainability because buildings generate nearly 40% of annual global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Architecture 2030's mission is to rapidly transform the global built environment from the major contributor of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to a central part of the solution to the climate crisis. RGGI funds will help Owners invest in buildings that will reduce carbon emissions and limit the effects of climate change.

The American Institute of Architects

In conclusion, RGGI investments will help Pennsylvania utilities migrate to zero emissions and help architects and legislators meet our obligations to the public for clean air. We believe that RGGI will help Pennsylvania take advantage of the economic opportunities that our neighboring RGGI states have already begun to reap. Additionally, RGGI can help propel Pennsylvania into a leadership position as we provide a prosperous and healthy future for all our residents and become a desirable place where others will want to invest, live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen M. Swarney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Stephen M. Swarney, J.D.
Executive Director, AIA Pennsylvania