



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 7:51 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Christopher Rabbitt
 (christopherrabbitt@consolenergy.com)
 1000 Consol Energy Drive, Suite 100
 Canonsburg, PA 15317 US

Comments entered:

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in opposition to Governor Tom Wolf's proposed regulation, CO2 Budget Trading Program as published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 7, 2020 (50. Pa.B. 6212), which will join Pennsylvania to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). I urge the Independent Regulatory Reform Commission (IRRC) to reject Governor Wolf's proposed RGGI tax.

I'm employed by a coal producer in southwestern Pennsylvania with a longstanding history of mining high quality bituminous coal. The coal industry has provided me and my family with many opportunities that we fear will be impacted if Pennsylvania joins RGGI. We're very proud to work in the coal industry and the energy that we produce creates family sustaining jobs. Unfortunately, these jobs will be lost if Pennsylvania joins RGGI and directly impact the local economy. Me and my family urge the IRRC to reject Governor Wolf's proposed regulation.

Joining RGGI will result in the premature closure of Pennsylvania's coal and older natural gas power plants, rendering nearly two-thirds of our electric generation uncompetitive, with no benefit to Pennsylvania. The closure of these power plants will result in the loss of thousands of direct jobs, negative impacts to secondary and tertiary industries that support the plants, the erosion of income and property tax revenues, and increased power prices that will burden consumers and businesses.

Modeling shows that carbon dioxide reductions from plant closures or reduced generation in Pennsylvania will simply shift to neighboring, non-RGGI states, like Ohio and West Virginia. Those states will also take the related jobs, capital expenditures and, yes, carbon dioxide. As a result, carbon dioxide emissions will increase in those states, which will more than offset any emission reductions in Pennsylvania.

At a time when our state is in an economic crisis with record unemployment, no one should choose to harm wages and job security, threaten the survival of businesses and manufacturers, and further jeopardize regional economies that are already struggling to survive. To add insult to injury, the Wolf Administration is manipulating the regulatory process to eliminate any meaningful opportunity for people in impacted communities to have a voice, as required by law.

Approving the CO2 Budget Trading Program and joining Pennsylvania to RGGI does nothing to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, it merely exports the production of affordable, reliable and resilient electricity to Ohio and West Virginia, where fossil fueled power plants aren't taxed, and exports Pennsylvania jobs and our economy too.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please reject the RGGI tax regulation and protect the jobs of thousands of Pennsylvanians struggling to make ends meet during this terribly difficult pandemic recession.

Regards,
Chris Rabbitt

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [Opposition Letter.docx](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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