



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:24 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-jflanagan@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:

Dr. Magdalena Sikora  
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Comments entered:

Dear Secretary - EQB Patrick McDonnell,

Thank you DEP for the proposals regarding the CO2 budget trading program to reduce carbon pollution and create thousands of jobs! This is wonderful and I also want to make sure a strong cap on climate pollution is implemented as well in order to protect communities on the frontlines of climate change. We must do all we can to ensure a strong, vibrant, healthy PA for all people.

These are policy ideas I'd like the DEP to consider as it prepares to join RGGI:

- Department must base its final determination on an informed decision when issuing air pollution permits: I urge consideration to be taken of residents' testimony, current and proposed ambient air quality, permittee's violation history, public benefit, population statistics, nearby schools, long-term care facilities, nursing homes, and cost-benefit analyses.
- The Department should not allow certain fossil fuel power plants to avoid polluting costs completely. The goal of the cap-and-invest program is to lower emissions and earn funds, which won't happen if some plants don't need to pay.
- RGGI should contain specific mechanisms to study the impacts and adjust for effects that are

unexpected or undesirable to make sure all is working as it should.

- The direct effect of RGGI is likely to be regressive: it will disproportionately burden low-income households with higher energy prices as producers pass emissions-reduction costs on to consumers. Therefore, Pennsylvania should use auction revenues to counter this effect. The auction revenues should be invested back into the very communities that have historically and presently face the burden of fossil fuel power plant pollution. Investment into community schools, greenspaces, and sustainable well-paying jobs should be a priority.

Thank you again!

Thank you for your consideration and the ability to provide comments on such an important topic.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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