



Pittsburgh Regional
Building Trades Council
Building Better Together

December 7, 2020

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Secretary McDonnell,

On behalf of our member Building Trades I wish to express our absolute opposition to Pennsylvania joining The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) as “risk without reward” reality.

At its core RGGI is simply not sound policy. It is a job crushing regulation that accomplishes little if any environmental benefit. This is not the right approach for our state to take in the best of times let alone in the face of our massive economic issues and the months, if not years, before a return to pre-virus normalcy.

We continue to record significant unemployment; thousands continue to file for unemployment and untold numbers of our fellow citizens are out of work many of whom will likely never return to their pre-pandemic jobs. We respect and believe in sound environmental stewardship. Further we know this can be done while also growing and protecting our energy, manufacturing and related industries and the family-sustaining careers they create.

RGGI does just the opposite. It will lead to a significant loss of employment among building trade and utility worker union members, and others. And will have negligible, if any, environmental benefit.

Furthermore, the unilateral implementation of RGGI is very troubling. Actions of this nature deserve a full airing in our state legislature – not circumvent our democratic process.

We join our brothers and sisters across the state, plant management and owners, industry, political leaders, and others who have worked in concert to show the massive shortcomings of Pennsylvania adopting RGGI.

We urge you to ensure that you protect these family-sustaining jobs and industry by making sure that RGGI does not become policy in our state. We are in no position to sacrifice any job for any reason; especially by adopting a policy with no discernable benefit.

Sincerely,

Thomas Melcher
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