

**Stephen Hoffman**

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:19 PM  
**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:

Carol Etheridge  
(cetherid1@gmail.com)  
1596 Twin Crest Drive  
Lehighon, PA 18235 US

## Comments entered:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CO2 Budget Trading Program. My name is Carol Etheridge, and I live in Lehighon, Pennsylvania. I am commenting as a private citizen and Pennsylvania resident. My husband and I moved to Pennsylvania a little over seven years ago. Before the restrictions put in place due to COVID19, we traveled throughout northeastern Pennsylvania to camp, fish, and kayak in the rivers and lakes. The beautiful scenery and natural resources that Pennsylvania offers are overwhelming, and I have grown to appreciate their positive impact. Among the abundant resources in Pennsylvania is energy, which provides a vital revenue source for the state. While there are many forms of energy available, we have relied on traditional sources that generate high carbon emissions.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a cooperative program across the northeastern and mid-Atlantic states to ensure that we achieve revenue growth through energy sources that significantly reduce carbon emissions. Reggie is already in-place in multiple states, and the economic benefit is tangible. The recent benefits to those states are documented by the Analysis Group in an independent report issued in April 2018 on RGGI program implementation's economic impacts. To quote one of the observations in the report, "As in its first six years, the RGGI program's third three-year compliance period continued to generate substantial economic benefits for the states while reducing CO2 emissions". Previous speakers in the RGGI hearing today, Dec 8th, have highlighted other benefits eloquently, and in the interest of space, I will not

reiterate here.

Given the current economic situation in Pennsylvania, new revenue streams are more important than ever, and I urge our state government to join the initiative. We must not take our natural resources for granted. The opportunity to increase jobs and revenue while reducing carbon emissions is truly a win-win for our economy and environment, now and for the future.

I want to thank the Department of Environmental Protection for investing the time in collecting comments, conducting hearings, and allowing the public to give their testimonies about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The testimonies I heard today give me great hope for Pennsylvania, our economy, and the environment.

One day, I hope that Pennsylvania will lead the country in job creation, health and wellness, arts and culture, and the best places to live! The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is key to making this dream a reality.

Thank you.

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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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