



Rev. Angela Brown-Vann

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Greetings to everyone concerned. I am Rev. Angela Brown - Vann and I am a life-long resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, I have attended public schools here and graduated from a private University in Philadelphia. I am an associate minister of St. Mark AME Zion Church in Newtown, PA. I work as an ambassador for social justice for POWER Interfaith in Philadelphia and I am an entrepreneur. I am speaking today as a private citizen, on behalf of my family and myself.

I am testifying because I believe it is time to reinvent our government in Pennsylvania by implementing RGGI. When I was growing up I always heard an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Now it seems instead of speaking of prevention we hear more about treating problems. As capitalism became more important, humanitarianism seems to have gone wanting. Fire suppression versus fire prevention; criminal prosecution versus crime prevention and pollution cleanup versus environmental protection.

As we've heard from previous speakers today and as we all know, we now have a crisis in environmental pollution. We've dealt with environmental pollution before and we can continue the work we've done. We started with product pollution and gained great strides in that area with recycling here in Pennsylvania as we continue to keep persons

aware of the need to recycle many things in order to protect our environment. Then, we found a way to make recycling a Revenue Center and bring jobs in the area of Recycling.

The goal with RGGI is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while generating economic growth. Well, we've done it before, we can do it again. We can clean up the environment and make it a revenue center at the same time. Greenhouse gases have been found to cause health issues like asthma, neurological issues and other issues known and unknown. I mentioned that I am a lifelong resident of Philadelphia. I live near a powerplant and I have a neurological condition. Why didn't I move? Where would I go? There's so much pollution in our environment it's impossible to know where to go to protect my health from everything. So, to reinvent our government we need government to WORK for us. Work means actually coming up with AND IMPLEMENTING things like RGGI that are effective strategies to change the environment for our families and next generations.

Let's do the same thing with greenhouse gases that we did with plastics, paper, aluminum and other environmental pollutants, let's get to work, clean up the environment, make it a revenue center and reinvest in our communities. What can we use the money for? Jobs, we need them in Pennsylvania. Education, public schools are closing in Philadelphia because they have asbestos; so the students often live in homes with lead, in communities with air pollution and go to schools with asbestos - and we

wonder why they're behind in education. They have health related issues and we aren't helping them.

Finally, medical studies are predicting COVID-19 will leave millions with chronic respiratory illnesses. We need to clean up the environment quickly to make breathing easier for these persons AND we should use RGGI funds to make it possible to care for them.

I support RGGI and I hope you do too. Thank you for listening. God bless you.