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## Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

My name is Chase Macpherson and I am from Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Thank you for holding these hearings. I am strongly in support of PA linking to RGGI.

I've lived in Pennsylvania with my family for 8 years now, and for all of that time I have known I want to spend my life working for climate advocacy. With Hurricane Sandy my family lost power and water for a week, we've had a 75° Christmas, and I have met so many people inspired to spend their free time working on behalf of the climate and the climate crisis' victims. I was 14 when I decided this would be my career path; I led my school's environmental club, I volunteered with PennEnvironment, I recently graduated from Smith College with a degree in biology, and now I'm here, urging you to do this for Pennsylvania and join RGGI.

My generation and those after me will be the ones most affected by climate change if we do not solve the climate crisis.

RGGI is a big piece of the puzzle to help mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. RGGI will help the environment, economy, and the health of Pennsylvanians. It also presents a critical opportunity to advance environmental justice for our people.

I want to focus on how we can reinvest in our state's communities that have been hurt and left behind by the fossil fuel industry. In current RGGI states, revenue is being returned to consumers as rate assistance, low-income weatherization projects, energy efficiency retrofitting, clean transportation, and more. While PA will have to operate within the bounds of the Clean Air Act, there is so much room to be creative and give back to the people that the fossil fuel industry has harmed the most. Many of these people are Black and Brown and/or low-income, and it is time for Pennsylvania to stand up to the fossil fuel industry and fight for these people.

The towns that are most reliant on fossil fuels also need justice. Coal plants are shutting down across the country and fracking is devastating to the surrounding environment, and we need to be proactive about helping these communities transition to a more sustainable future. RGGI can help us do that.

Other states have seen the benefits of RGGI, now it is time for Pennsylvania to join this successful, market based solution, invest in sustainable jobs in our transitioning energy sector, root out environmental injustices in our state, and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Joining RGGI is the right decision for Pennsylvania. Thank you.