



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:25 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-jflanaga@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

**CAUTION: \*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\*** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

**Testimony name:** Public Hearing 1 (9am) - #7-559  
**Testimony date:** 12/8/2020 12:00:00 AM  
**Testimony location:** WebEx

### Re: eComment System

**The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).**

Commenter Information:

Abha Saini  
 Climate Reality Project: Philadelphia & SE PA Ch. (abha.climatereality.psepa.chap@gmail.com)  
 2 Norsham Way  
 Collegeville, PA 19426 US

Comments entered:

Good morning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's establishing a Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Budget Trading Program Regulation and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) (pronounced as "Reggie").

My name is Abha Arya Saini. I live in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. I've worked as a Biologist and Senior Scientist for over 20 years in biomedical research and development (R&D).

I am serving as Chair of The Climate Reality Project: Philadelphia and Southeastern PA Chapter, and speaking today on behalf of 162 members of our Chapter. We are volunteers and concerned citizens working to catalyze a regional and statewide solution to the climate crisis.

Climate change is the greatest existential threat we face.

Clean air to breathe, pure water to drink, healthy food to eat, and safe shelter from extreme weather are the greatest existential needs we face.

In fact, our Pennsylvania State's Constitution, in Article 1, Section 27, recognizes these needs, and states that "the people have a right to clean air" and "pure water"—and that "the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people".

Yet these needs are being threatened. Right now, human activity and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units (EGU)—power plants—are dumping billions of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents into our atmosphere—causing our Earth's atmosphere to heat up to dangerous levels. This must stop.

Our thin atmosphere, less than 200 miles high of it, is the only protective shield most life on Earth has against the deadly ravages of radiation shooting down from space.

Today, Earth's atmosphere is sick with an accelerating toxic overload of carbon dioxide gas equivalents. These greenhouse gasses are trapping too much heat within our air, oceans, and rivers, and setting off, in turn, a spider-web like cascade of compounding negative effects on environmental, human, and economic health and life.

The immediate reduction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution is critical for any realistic, sustainable strategy for solving the climate crisis. If we do nothing to drastically reduce carbon emissions now, the scientific evidence-based prediction for catastrophic global warming will be the reality that our current and future generations will face.

Throughout Pennsylvania, we already see the impacts of accelerated global warming, including excessive heat, precipitation, and flooding, and more frequent extreme weather events—which are all expected to continue, if we do not take serious action to address clear root causes of the problem, such as, excessive carbon emissions from EGUs.

What are we waiting for?

We need urgent action.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that global annual greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced from now until 2030 by 45% from 2010 levels (which were 47 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents). That's about 22 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents that **MUST NOT** be released into the atmosphere in the next nine years.

The Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2020 Report finds that Pennsylvania was responsible for approximately 263 million metric tons of carbon dioxide gas equivalents (MMTCO<sub>2e</sub>) being emitted into the atmosphere, in 2017. Nearly 30% of those emissions came from electricity production from source EGU's. These fossil fuel-fired power plants are continuously emitting millions of tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other toxic pollutants into our atmosphere, year after year.

In fact, Pennsylvania is the fourth largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution from EGUs in the nation—and the largest carbon polluter of all the RGGI states. In 2018, Pennsylvania's carbon emissions were the equivalent of the combined total of eight of the RGGI member states.

Clearly, Pennsylvania is part of the problem of excessive carbon emissions in our country, and

not yet part of the solution.

Joining RGGI is one solution—and is projected to result in a reduction of 188 million tons of carbon pollution between 2022 and 2030—a good start.

Our Climate Reality Chapter strongly supports the Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program. Joining RGGI is the right decision for Pennsylvanians.

Thank you.

---

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

---

Jessica Shirley  
Director, Office of Policy  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Office: 717-783-8727  
Fax: 717-783-8926  
ecomment@pa.gov