



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

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Defend Our Future

Good morning everyone. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak at this hearing. My name is George Snedden. I am a student at Temple University. I am here both as representative for Defend Our Future, a non-profit dedicated to empowering young people who are passionate about climate solution, and simply as a concerned citizen. I am here today to testify in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) which will help provide citizens of Pennsylvania, and even people around the world, with cleaner, safer air.

The dangers of greenhouse gas emission are not a mystery. Long term exposure to air pollution can damage nearly every major organ (brain, kidneys, liver, lungs), and even cause nerve damage. It is no coincidence that communities with lower median incomes and higher African American populations are the ones that are affected the most by greenhouse gas emissions. This is yet another example of how those who contribute the least to climate change can suffer the most from its impacts. Every day that we continue on the path that we are on, we are doing irreversible damage to our planet. As a result, it is crucial that the DEP moves deliberately and quickly on the RGGI rule. What is the purpose of government if not to protect its citizens health and wellbeing. Adopting RGGI would also put Pennsylvania in a position to lead the country in the clean energy movement over the coming decades. Overall, RGGI would benefit millions, if not billions, of people, and the policy should be put in place as quickly as possible.