



Good Morning and thank you for hearing my statement today.

My name is Liesel Schwarz, a private citizen living in Glenside, Pennsylvania, speaking on behalf of myself. To understand why I have chosen to take the time to speak with you today there are two facts about me that you should know.

First, I am a sustainability professional by training and practice. I have two degrees in sustainability and work as a sustainability professional for an institution of higher learning located in Pennsylvania. I understand the science behind climate change, I know what will happen to citizens of Pennsylvania if the risks of climate change are not mitigated, I know the uneven distribution of impact our citizens will feel across the state, and I know the mess we are leaving for our children to clean up.

But I also understand the economic impacts changing our energy and transportation infrastructure will require. And while it is a heavy lift, I believe there are market-based solutions that will address many of these problems. Solutions that will produce better paying and safer jobs for our citizens, ones that don't impact their fellow citizens ability to live long and healthy lives. You have the responsibility to make decisions that consider the livelihood of all of our citizens, while also recognizing the inequities in our current system.

I believe RGGI provides a proven and effective solution for all of the problems brought on by Pennsylvania's dependence on fossil fuels. Businesses, and yes fossil fuel companies, appreciate the stability and predictability of RGGI's structure, state governments reinvest the funds raised to improving the lives of those citizens who are negatively impacted, and we are all able to enjoy a more stable future.

The Second thing you need to know about me is I am a mom of a 16-month-old curious, adventures and nature loving boy. They always say having a child changes your life. From the early mornings, to the extra three bags you need to pack just to leave the house, to the constant worry for their safety. It is that last part that causes me to wake up in the middle of the night. His safety from stairs, moving vehicles, and climate change. I was home alone with my son when the Derecho came through this summer, I grabbed my son and we hid in the basement till the storm passed, a memory that still gives me nightmares. Extreme storms like this are only becoming more common in our area due to the progression of climate change. The mornings when I look at the weather and see we have an air quality advisory in effect due to heavy levels of pollution from our energy processing facilities. The predictions of the world he will be inheriting if we don't something now.

I can not look at his adorable, innocent, face and not do something to protect his future.

I am here today to ask you to look at the faces of your sons and daughters, your grandchildren, and tell them you are going to do everything you can to make sure the world they grow up to lead will be clean, have safe jobs, and supports all people. RGGI is one step towards that future for the ones you love.

Thank you.