



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2020 9:31 AM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com  
**Cc:** c-jflanagan@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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

**Testimony name:** Public Hearing 6 (6pm) - #7-559  
**Testimony date:** 12/10/2020 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:

Erin Bell  
 Mom's Clean Air Force (erinbelknap@gmail.com)  
 3184 Morningside Drive  
 Allison Park, PA 15101 US

Comments entered:

Hello, my name is Erin Bell. I grew up in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, in a house located 10 minutes from both the Beaver Valley nuclear Power Plant and now the Shell petrochemical plant along the Ohio River. My husband grew up in Central Pennsylvania, just outside of the coal region, with much of his family coming from the economically depressed town of Shamokin, a former coal hub. We now live north of Pittsburgh in Allison Park with our three year old daughter and one year old son, with a third child on the way in February. I'm here today to testify in vehement support of RGGI.

Throughout my teens and twenties, I watched as the Shell petrochemical property in my hometown grew from a few inconspicuous buildings to a massive operation with sprawling infrastructure. Every time I made a trip home, it seemed that the operation had expanded and become more imposing, scary even. It was in watching the progression of this plant that I

realized something big was happening here in my town and my home state, and I needed to pay attention.

I've since learned a lot about Pennsylvania's manufacturing and natural gas industry. I've learned about the realities of Pennsylvania's need for jobs and revenue and how the energy sector factors into that. I've learned about our state's energy production and consumption and how it's evolved over the years. I've learned about the important and defining role that Pennsylvania plays in the regional and national energy landscape. I've also learned about the detrimental environmental impacts and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions associated with these things.

This has all led me to a place of deep concern and distress regarding climate change, pollution and the myriad negative consequences associated with each. The extent of our concern over this crisis even led my husband and I to question whether we wanted to expand our family for a third time, or if it was irresponsible to do so given that the most meaningful thing people can do to reduce their carbon footprint is have less children.

As alums of the University of Pittsburgh, my husband and I have taken pride in the technological innovation and groundbreaking medical research taking place in our city at universities like Carnegie Mellon and Pitt. We've watched as our region has reinvented itself from a coal and steel industrial town to one of technology and innovation where private companies like Uber and Google seek to invest in our human capital and resources. We feel strongly that this same innovative spirit can and should be applied to Pennsylvania's energy sector, which is precisely what RGGI does. The people of Pennsylvania have proven beyond a doubt that they are resilient, they are adaptive, they are resourceful, they are innovative and they are hard working when given the opportunity to be. RGGI will be an important step in giving them this much deserved opportunity. This program will allow us to invest in green energy development and facilitate job creation for the deserving people of our region while also acting urgently on climate crisis and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

Forward-thinking yet proven initiatives like RGGI are not only critical in protecting our environment and creating sustainable economic development, but they are also critical in ensuring a healthy path forward for our kids. And as any parent would agree, that truly is the bottom line.

As a mom, it's impossible to stand by and watch as polluting entities like coal and gas-fired power plants carry on highly unregulated, furthering us down the scientifically guaranteed path of environmental and health degradation. We can't afford to be stagnant, passive or fickle in our policy and legislation, especially when people have already made enormous sacrifices for the sake of public health during this year of covid-19.

RGGI is a reasonable and productive solution that not only addresses problematic carbon emissions, but also reinvests in our state, our communities, and by extension, our children. I'm here tonight to do my part in ensuring that forward progress and meaningful action is set into motion for my kids and all kids in the Commonwealth. Thank you.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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