



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:33 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)

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

Testimony name: Public Hearing 2 (1pm) - #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:

Laura Velez
 (lau.ivg@gmail.com)
 29 Rutherford Court
 Royersford, PA 19468 US

Comments entered:

Good Afternoon, my name is Laura Velez and I live in Royersford, Pennsylvania. I'm here today to voice my support for Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. There are three main reasons I support this initiative. (1) Joining RGGI will help prevent job losses in the nuclear, solar, wind and hydropower industries as well as other numerous critical technical industries that support these facilities. (2) RGGI has a track record of making states more competitive and more importantly (3) this initiative in other states has seen CO2 reduction by 47%. In summary, this initiative will protect our jobs, and the jobs of highly skilled individuals, it will ensure that our state continues to grow and lastly and more importantly will ensure that we continue to protect our environment for the future of our children.

By supporting RGGI, I am also standing up for nuclear power in Pennsylvania. You see, I am a Chemical Engineer by trade. I moved from Puerto Rico to the main United states 14 years ago and started my career in the nuclear industry. I am currently an Engineering Manager in one of

these clean, safe and reliable nuclear facilities in our state, and I am very passionate about the science behind those doors and how do we positively impact the environment and the community around us. I continue to encourage young minds in our area to develop themselves in STEM fields because I am passionate about what I do every day. However, I did not grow up in nuclear in this beautiful area. I had to uproot my family 2 years ago and leave friends that became family behind, following the decommissioning of one of these units in another state. I do not wish this on anyone, specially young hard working families with school age children. Having that conversation and experience left a mark on all of us.

RGGI means Pennsylvania's four nuclear power plants have an opportunity to compete on a more level playing field. Nuclear power is clean, safe, reliable and affordable electricity that generates economic and environmental benefits for everyone. Nuclear energy is the only carbon-free electricity source that can produce large amounts of electricity around-the-clock. Pennsylvania's eight nuclear power reactors produce 34 percent of the state's electricity and 91 percent of its clean energy. Pennsylvania's nuclear energy facilities employ 15,000 full-time direct and indirect in-state jobs. Pennsylvania already saw and experienced the premature closing of one of its nuclear power plants in 2019, we cannot allow this to happen again. For my family and yours and so many more reasons, I ask the Department of Environmental Protection to move Pennsylvania into its future and enter our Commonwealth into RGGI. Thank you all for the opportunity to use my experience and my voice to move us forward into the future.

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