



Stephen Hoffman

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

Naomi Miller
 (imoanrellim@gmail.com)
 1500 Chestnut St., 13B
 Philadelphia, PA 19102 US

Comments entered:

I am testifying as a private citizen. I live in Center City Philadelphia and worked for over 25 years as a PhD researcher at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. I am an archaeologist with special expertise in long-term human impacts on the environment and the effect of climate change on society. Since this hearing is specifically about reducing atmospheric CO2, I will comment mainly on global warming.

Even in Center City, my apartment building is adversely affected by the increasing storm intensity and flooding that is a direct result of climate change. Additionally, earlier springs and later winters make it harder on the insect pollinators we depend on for much of our food. Beneficial insect pollinators are in steep decline. At the same time, without long hard freezes, insect pests increase. So, I am concerned about food and the Pennsylvania farmers who supply it. As an aside, I also worry about fine particulates caused by fossil fuel burning, because they are associated with dementia.[1]

In my archaeologist hat, it is clear that the rate of atmospheric CO2 increase is unprecedented in Homo sapiens's existence on Earth. Never has a human population had to evolve its cultural, social, and technological response to climate change as we do today.

There are many ways to reduce atmospheric CO2. No one method is enough; they need to work in concert. Leaving carbon in the ground by reducing fossil fuel use is one of the most effective. Joining RGGI provides for producers and consumers of fossil fuels to share the long-term cost of continued extraction. If the legislature used the proceeds to mitigate the causes and effects of climate change, so much the better. RGGI has helped other states significantly reduce CO2 AND particulate matter emissions, which improves public health at the same time as slowing climate change.

If we are ever going to reduce CO2 in the air, we are going to have to leave the carbon in the ground. We can plan for that eventuality, or we can not plan for it. RGGI is a small, but necessary, step that will lead us to a carbon-reduced economy. I strongly support Pennsylvania joining RGGI.

[1] <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/25/13856>

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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