



Peter Furcht, Philadelphia, private citizen.

I support Governor Wolf's move to join RGGI to reduce green house gas emissions.

Climate change isn't coming, it is already here. Choosing to ignore the signs and the science and continuing business as usual puts you and me at risk, it puts our children at great risk, and it leaves our grandchildren struggling to live in a world potentially unfit for human habitation. We can choose to ignore the data but doing so only hurts us, our families, and our fellow citizens.

Joining RGGI is a first step in changing an economic model that has allowed industry the free, unlimited dumping of green house gasses.

Change is disruptive. Changing to a low or no-carbon energy economy will be disruptive. But, change is necessary for economic growth, for improvements to our standard of living, for progress. When done right, we will look back and wonder why we didn't make these changes earlier.

History is full of disruptive changes that ultimately transformed our way of life in very positive ways.

Whalers lost their jobs after crude oil was discovered here in Pennsylvania. The truth is, of course, our modern economy could not have been built on whale oil. The change to crude oil was disruptive to the whaling industry but transformative to the world's economy.

Carriage and whip makers and steam engine machinists lost their jobs after the automobile and internal combustion engine were invented but millions work now in the auto industry. And what would our life and our economy be like if we were all still riding carriages and using steam engines?

Will some workers lose their jobs because of RGGI? Unfortunately yes, but studies indicate that joining RGGI will produce a net INCREASE of 27,000 new jobs by 2030. They project a net INCREASE of nearly \$2 billion to the state GDP and an INCREASE in disposable personal income. The studies also project many health benefits. What's not to like about all this?

Well, if you are one of the workers displaced by RGGI, 27,000 OTHER people working leaves you with little comfort. Some of the millions of dollars of additional revenues brought into the state through RGGI *must* be used to help negatively impacted communities and individuals. Funds for living, for training, for new jobs must be provided. We must all lobby our representatives to be sure this happens.

Industry continues to behave as if the Earth has unlimited capacity to swallow up, without consequence, whatever waste we dump into her. Climate change proves this to be false. Change is required. But capitalist driven industry has shown that it will not voluntarily reduce waste. I understand. Reducing waste adds cost and makes a business less competitive. As such, protection of the Earth and capitalism are diametrically opposed. Capitalism and industry want to drive out costs. Protecting the Earth from waste adds in cost.

Again though, if we go back into history, we see it is full of mandated changes to industrial waste management. These changes were met with dire warnings of industrial demise; most mandates though drove innovation rather than demise.

Our water and air are somewhat clean today only because government agencies told industries that they cannot dump unlimited quantities of certain wastes. This cost industries money and some of that cost is passed down to consumers; but I ask, are we all healthier, living a better quality of life, enjoying the outdoors because we're not traipsing through filth, breathing noxious air, and drinking poisoned water? I believe so, yes. It is worth the cost.

Dumping should not, and in many cases is not, free. We all have to pay to have our trash and waste collected. Why should the energy industry be allowed to dump their CO2 waste into our air for free? RGGI is about free vs costed CO2 dumping.

If dumping CO2 is no longer free, energy industries will have a financial incentive to stop dumping unlimited quantities. Energy industries will figure out best ways to reduce and/or offset their CO2 output and thus lower their CO2 dumping costs. This means innovation, efficiency gains, and more. Some cost is added but it is costs the energy industries can control and choose how to mitigate. RGGI does not mean government involvement in how energy companies run their business. There are just some new market forces to address. A market cost will now exist for discharging CO2 waste just like a market cost exists for disposal of our household waste. When our cost of waste removal rises, no doubt we figure out ways to be less wasteful and potentially even save more than the increased disposal cost. Industry will do the same.

Joining RGGI now prevents the PA state government from in the future having to impose a 'tax' on carbon or take other financial and/or punitive actions that would add cost to the industry that was outside of their control. That could be far more damaging.

RGGI has a proven record of successful carbon emission reduction and revenue generation without large job losses or price increases in other states where it has been implemented.

Joining RGGI gives PA a jump on building new industries and expertise in 21st century green technology and jobs. PA can build on its energy leadership position.

It's simple, the time to act is now, no excuses. RGGI is a proven, market-driven approach to spur innovation while reducing CO2 emissions. Please join.

Thank you.