



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

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I am Phyllis Terwilliger, a mother of 2 adult sons, from York, PA. I am the Northeast Jurisdictional Climate Justice Advocate for the United Methodist Women, an organization of 800,000 members.

- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- A Church
- A Basketball Team
- A Baseball Team
- A Soccer Team
- A Football Team
- A Track Team
- A Gang
- The UMW
- The NAACP
- Moms Clean Air Force

We join because we want to work together for a specific goal – we want to play with others and we believe in a cause bigger than ourselves.

- Delaware
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- New Hampshire
- New York
- Rhode Island
- New Jersey

- Vermont
- Connecticut
- Maine

All these states are working together in a bipartisan way towards a specific goal to cap and reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector.

*The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions; therefore, the United Methodist Church's Social Principles support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.*

Pennsylvanians need to join these Northeastern States who have participated in RGGI and have cut carbon pollution by 45% over the last 11 years and invested billions in clean energy and efficiency programs. Joining RGGI would lead to meaningful climate action.

Oil, coal, natural gas – all extractive industries in PA that take a toll on communities and workers.

**Coal** runs through my veins. My grandfather lived in Frackville, PA and worked the land as an anthracite coal miner. He died of Black Lung at the age of 54 leaving a wife and 7 sons. Injustice is when people have to choose between having a job or their health.

Another injustice...Historically, polluting sources such as power plants have been located near communities of color and low-income communities, making it **essential** to put in place **safeguards** to ensure communities benefit from a rule that reduces carbon pollution. That, Pennsylvanians, is working toward racial and economic justice!! When we join RGGI we need to make sure that those who are wounded by the system have a voice in its implementation.

**NOW IS THE TIME!!!**

Now is the time to join with others in realizing that air, water, and CO2 emissions are not limited by political boundaries.

Now is the time to claim unity among our neighboring states and join RGGI. It's why we are called the **United** States.

By participating in RGGI, not only will PA be able to reduce climate pollution from carbon emissions, we will also be able to significantly improve our air quality by reducing pollution from sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter. These reductions will particularly benefit those most impacted by poor air quality, such as children, seniors, low income and frontline communities.

Christians are commanded to love their neighbors and themselves... sometimes that means **changing** systems that do harm. Now is the time.

As citizens of the United States, we pledge "Liberty and Justice for All".

Now is the time, Pennsylvania, to commit to Just Energy for all of God's people and creation!

Thank you!