



## Stephen Hoffman

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**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-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 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:

Robert Stroufe  
 (stroufer@duq.edu)  
 132 Riverwatch Drive  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238 US

Comments entered:

Members of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB); thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I'm here today to support joining RGGI.

I am Murrin Chair of Global Competitiveness at Duquesne University's MBA Sustainable Business Practices Program in Pittsburgh, PA. The program is ranked by the Corporate Knights as the #1 MBA program in the U.S. for integrating sustainability into its curriculum (beating out the likes of Penn, CMU, Harvard, Cornell, Stanford, MIT, Notre Dame, ...and that list goes on)

One reason for my support is that companies and governments are already measuring and managing GHG emissions successfully (it's good for business). One of my roles in this program is to provide live consulting projects involving sustainable business practices to MNCs, SMEs, and City governments. My insights are from firsthand experience with ~ 200 projects to date measuring GHG emissions and aligning practices with goals for sustainable development. We even

have entire countries approaching us to help them with measuring and managing GHG emissions.

My next reason is that I also know a price on GHG emissions can provide (financial benefits) to Pennsylvanians. This past January, one of my teams of MBA "business students" presented our findings to representatives in Congress. What we found is that "Most Pennsylvanians Would Benefit from the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA)" which puts a price on CO2 emissions and is one of several federal bills being considered by Congress regarding regulations and prices on carbon dioxide emissions.

Pennsylvania-specific key findings are as follows:

- An estimated 61% of all PA households would experience a net financial benefit as a result of the dividend return with greatest financial impact being for low-income and family households, particularly in rural areas.
- Pennsylvania would benefit from the generation of an estimated 77,000 jobs by 2025 and almost 100,000 (97,000) jobs by 2035.
- It would create clean energy jobs through incentivizing investment in energy innovation instead of business as usual polluting industries-jobs with a new avg hourly wage 8-19% higher than the national mean hourly wage.
- The takeaway: there are many benefits from putting a value on GHG emissions

If you would like to find the link to the report and story of the research and major outcomes: everyone can Google "Pennsylvanians Would Benefit from the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act" <https://www.duq.edu/news/releases/most-pennsylvanians-would-benefit-from-the-energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act-according-to-a-duquesne-study>

Another reason: If you think that no one is already watching GHG emissions, you would be wrong. The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) with \$100T in investor money behind it measures and tracks the CO2 emissions of all publicly traded firms, along with subnational governments, i.e., cities and states to manage and disclose environmental impacts. My business students already have access to GHG emission data, and over 400 Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance metrics per publicly traded firm in the USA.

A more personal reason, I live east of Pittsburgh and from my home, my family and I can see the smokestack of the Cheswick Power Station. At one time, this station was the sixth worst polluting utility station in the US. We have air quality monitors in our home and within our Business School in downtown Pittsburgh. What we have found is that the air inside our homes and buildings is two to four times better than being outside. This is in part due to coal powered utility stations like the one in Cheswick. RGGI will help to reduce these emissions and improve outdoor air quality, and improve human health and productivity.

I know we do not want China's air quality, where 4,000 people die from poor outdoor air quality,... (every day!)

RGGI will help the health of Pennsylvanians and especially Pittsburghers as we live in the 8th worst polluted air quality city in the nation. (That's a top ten list we do not want to be part of any more).

For these reasons, for my daughters and family, for my business students and their future, the for future of PA, and for many other reasons I do not have time for, ...

The future includes RGGI, innovation, better air quality, jobs, better health; NOT business as

usual.

I am in favor of joining RGGI. It is important that the DEP move deliberately and quickly on the RGGI rule in the interest of meaningful: positive economic action and positive climate action

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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