



RGGI Investments in Energy Efficiency
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Introduction

- Good evening. My name is Vincent O'Grady and I am a resident of King of Prussia, Montgomery County.
- I am speaking today on behalf of Maxwell Lighting & Energy just outside Philadelphia.
- In year 2019 we were the #1 Trade Ally for lighting and controls projects in the PECO Smart Ideas program for energy efficiency.
- I'm here to offer vigorous support for RGGI on behalf of Pennsylvania's business community, and to encourage the DEP to enact policies that deliver immediate relief to our Commonwealth's businesses, local governments, and non-profits.

RGGI investments in Energy Efficiency are a win at every level – these investments will accelerate the achievement of long-term policy goals such as carbon neutral business operations and housing stocks. At the same time these energy efficiency investments provide small businesses and suffering families with immediate relief from the skyrocketing debts that are occurring because of the pandemic. Virtually all of our work at Maxwell Lighting & Energy is in southeastern PA, meaning we are supporting and creating local jobs while providing technical expertise to family-owned and independent local companies. For example we just began a lighting upgrade for a hi-tech custom apparel manufacturing company. But for each project like this one, we have 8 or 10 that have been delayed substantially or cancelled altogether because of a lack of funding or credit.

Energy efficiency investments have immediate returns to the local communities. For businesses they improve Net Operating Income, and for families these investments mean healthier foods purchased at local markets, or coverage for medicines and medical expenses that are essential for family health and well-being.

Investing RGGI proceeds into energy efficiency can make the energy landscape more equitable. Especially in the current crisis, housing authorities and non-profits need our support to carry out their missions. One of our customers is a small town public library whose patrons are mostly children, and at the other end, senior citizens. The library will only be able to provide curbside services through spring and its two major fundraisers were cancelled. Meanwhile a substantial portion of its light fixtures are in a state of disrepair so that the library is dark. I am hearing about hospitals that are cutting important support services because they are losing so much money to COVID19. The need is abundant, and we now have the opportunity to help all of these entities reduce their carbon footprint, stabilize operations, and move us to a Greener Pennsylvania. Finally, our society is failing to provide for the basic safety, security, and health of its most vulnerable citizens. Thousands of people across the Commonwealth face eviction, bankruptcy, and chronic diseases because we have largely failed in our social contract to protect their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness in the face of a failed war on the insidious enemy called COVID19. RGGI investment in energy efficiency will allow us to start making amends for that failure.

With that I thank everyone for their time to hear my testimony.