



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com
Cc: c-jflanagan@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 4 (6pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/9/2020 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:

Avika Weinstein
 (avikaweinstein@gmail.com)
 121 League Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19147 US

Comments entered:

My name is Akiva Weinstein and I am a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this virtual public hearing. Climate change is one of the greatest, if not the greatest threat, we currently face. Here in Pennsylvania, we are already experiencing the effects.

Climate change causes stronger storms and increased flooding, which strain our infrastructure and our budgets. In 2018 alone, PennDOT spent more than \$125 million to repair flooding and landslide damage. In 2019, Power outages hit a record high, disrupting electricity for nearly 2 million PA customers.

By 2050, Temperatures in Pennsylvania are projected to increase by 5.4 degrees, and the number of days with a heat index above 90 degrees will increase dramatically from 8 to 40 per year. This will have a huge impact on our farmers, especially dairy farmers.

Climate change contributes to increases in Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, and other tick/mosquito borne illnesses. Heat-related deaths are on the rise, along with an increase in

respiratory ailments like asthma, which disproportionately affect our children, our elderly, and inhabitants of low-income and marginalized communities. Unfortunately, as the third-largest producer of carbon pollution in the country, Pennsylvania is contributing to climate change, and by extension, these disastrous effects to our communities, and our environment. It's time for Pennsylvania to get on board with a proven program to reduce carbon pollution and create thousands of jobs by joining the bipartisan Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI. RGGI has been a massive success in the states in which it's in place; cutting climate pollution by a third and raising nearly \$3 billion to invest in clean energy and other purposes. Additionally, by joining this program, Pennsylvania could receive hundreds of millions of dollars in proceeds. These funds will be invested in targeted efforts to eliminate air pollution, spur job creation, support working Pennsylvanians, and help boost the state's long-term economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. A portion of the proceeds could be used to help workers and communities who will be affected by the ongoing and inevitable transition of the energy market away from coal to natural gas and renewables. Expert analysis conducted for DEP confirmed that RGGI would produce a net increase of 27,000 jobs and add \$1.9 Billion to our state's economy. Participation in RGGI will also make our citizens healthier. DEP analysis concluded that overall carbon emissions will be cut by more than 180 million tons from 2022 – 2030. Harmful sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions will be cut as well. That will produce \$6.3 billion in health care savings and 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory illnesses like asthma among children and adults. There will also be 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis. Pennsylvanians want their lawmakers to address climate change. Polling shows that three in four Pennsylvanians support reducing carbon pollution from power plants and want their electricity to come from clean energy sources that do not create carbon pollution. Businesses large and small are on board as well and support RGGI's market-based approach. Additionally, As a middle-school Science teacher who has worked in two Charter schools in Philadelphia, I have seen firsthand how the youth of this city are passionate about climate change. I have seen students complete advocacy programs to address Climate change because they want a brighter, cleaner and healthier future. We must not let down the future generation. Thank you for considering my testimony.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Office: 717-783-8727

Fax: 717-783-8926

ecomment@pa.gov