



Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends

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Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

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December 13, 2020

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
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Regcomments@pa.gov

Dear Secretary Patrick McDonnell:

The Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), acting on our deeply-held concern for climate justice, strongly supports the adoption of a carbon market in Pennsylvania and endorses a decision to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's oldest carbon market.

To be true to our historic testimonies for peace, justice and stewardship of our earth, we must make work for climate justice a high priority. As we are called to discern how best to contribute to the economic, political and societal transformations that will be required in order to address this crisis, we understand that a well-managed carbon market can lower greenhouse gas emissions significantly and steadily, reducing air pollution statewide and helping to mitigate climate change.

It can also create thousands of jobs and grow the economy, while reducing the severity of asthma, other respiratory disease, and many other health problems caused and exacerbated by air pollution and climate change. Through the extensive investment in energy efficiency that is built into the program, it will also reduce the energy burden on low and moderate income households.

The income from its cap and invest structure can support initiatives in renewable energy, clean transportation, carbon sequestration and other carbon mitigation efforts, and a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.

Our faith calls us to act. As climate change, high unemployment, structural job loss caused by the pandemic, and a public health crisis continue to bear down on Pennsylvania, time is of the essence. We strongly urge expeditious action on implementing a carbon market in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Dana P. Reinhold, Clerk