

“Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation”

December 9, 2020



I'm Heidi Munn from Crafton (15205), just west Pittsburgh - a hiker, camper, artist, and private citizen. I strongly support PA joining RGGI.

When I heard about this meeting, I wanted to attend because I've been wondering for decades - why does my air smell so foul? My air smells bad a lot of the time. In fact, about a year ago I walked out my front door, and was met with a blast of horrific chemical-smelling air, and on top of that, my eyes started to burn.

This is NOT okay! We've had decades to clean up our air-quality problems. And yet, our air is still really bad. Why is this?

I searched the internet for answers, and found many charts that congruently show that:

1. CO2 is the #1 contributor to Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
2. The USA is the #2 producer of CO2 in the world; and
3. PA is the 3rd largest producer of CO2 in the USA

Also within the US, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia rank in the top 20 cities of having overall poor air quality - Pittsburgh generally being worse. And many of our counties get "D"s or "F"s on their air-quality report cards.

I'll also point out that according to a 2019 report by *The Institute for Women's Policy Research*, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are NOT good places for black and brown women to live. One of the key categories was Health Outcomes, where Philadelphia was below the median, and Pittsburgh was on the very bottom of the list of 42 cities. I'm bringing this up because the EPA has reported for decades, that Black Americans face higher health risks from air pollution than other populations.

So, it appears to me, that PA is one of the bad guys, with our poor air quality.

Shouldn't Pennsylvanians be embarrassed, or even horrified by this? Isn't breathing clean air one of our basic human rights?

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be one of the bad guys! I believe it is our **duty** to fix this problem NOW, for ourselves and for future generations.

Besides, in PA, we are winners...and have proved it over and over again. PA has many diverse "firsts"... so we all know we have the power to do amazing things!

PA had the first successful oil well, the first commercial nuclear generator, the first hospital, the first art institute, the first stock exchange, and even the first hunting club! And, Pittsburgh is home to many LEED certified "green-building" firsts.

So if PA had the first successful oil well, shouldn't we be on the forefront of mitigating the problems it causes? What if PA became the first state, whose economy was once dominated by fossil fuels, to join RGGI? What if we became the first major energy exporter to join RGGI?

PA's current laws give the DEP the power to regulate carbon pollution, and distribute investments through the Clean Air Fund.

We can use these policies to set your proposed declining carbon cap, and invest allowance money directly into renewable energy and clean job creation - especially in our worst pollution-hit, vulnerable communities.

What if PA became an award-winning example of "how to clean up the air?" Why not stun everybody?

What if PA's cities became the BEST places for black and brown people to live, rather than being at the bottom of the lists?

If we can be big winners in our sports arenas, can't we be big winners in our air quality and environmental justice arenas?

When I worked at Bayer before I retired, our German leaders sent a delegation of teenagers to Pittsburgh, whose great-grandparents were Nazi's. These teens were eager to engage us in conversations about the terrible things their ancestors had done, the shame they felt, and their desire for a better world. I hope our great-grandchildren will not be put in the position to explain how Pennsylvania dropped the ball on cleaning up our air, and how we especially failed our black and brown communities.

Instead, let's be world-class champions, showing the world how to innovate and collaborate; and let's win Gold Star ratings for our outstanding work in environmental stewardship and justice.

Thank you.

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