



L. Ingrid Lakey
4510 Kingsessing Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19143
ingrid@audiomind.com

Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

Good afternoon. My name is Ingrid Lakey. I live in West Philadelphia, just 5 blocks from the house I grew up in where my father still lives. I am a proud Pennsylvanian. My father's great-grandparents came to this country and settled upstate in North Hampton County where the men in his family became slate miners. I say this because I understand that PA has been rich in resources and that the state and country have been profiting off of hundreds of years of extraction whether it has been slate, oil, coal or natural gas. Many jobs have been created. But there has also been a tremendous cost to us particularly in how we have relied on fossil fuels which have been polluting our air and water, making people sick and massively contributing to climate change. Our over-reliance on oil, coal and natural gas has slowed our embrace and development of renewable energy sources and the job creation that goes with it. I am NOT proud that Pennsylvania is the third dirtiest state in the country in terms of carbon pollution.

Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative gives us a real opportunity to change direction because right now we are heading full steam ahead off a cliff of climate disaster and economic polarization. We as - Pennsylvanians - have an opportunity and responsibility to address the disproportionate and devastating impact of decades of pollution on low-income families and on communities of color who have been *left out* of the profits of the fossil fuel economy but *left with* increased rates of asthma and the other health and economic impacts of environmental racism. While I believe that we should join RGGI, it must include protections by not allowing the power producers to *increase* emissions in these communities and electricity rates cannot be allowed to go up for low-income households.

RGGI also has the potential to be a jobs creator – an analysis for the PA DEP showed that we stand to gain more than 27,000 jobs. I ask that those workers from former coal powered electric plants get the training they need to move into the green jobs sector. There is nothing inherently true about the idea that working people have to decide between good paying jobs and the climate. This is only true when we have engineered it to be this way. RGGI gets us a step closer to a thriving green economy for this state that has been in the hands of the fossil fuel industry for too long.

For hundreds of years the fossil fuel industry has never paid the true cost of extraction.

Climate change is already here and already making life harder for everyone across our state from farmers to city dwellers. Temperatures in Pennsylvania are projected to increase by 5.4 degrees by 2050 and the number of days with a heat index above 90 degrees will increase dramatically from eight to 40 per year. This past summer, Philadelphia recorded 36 days of

90-plus readings. The health and economic impacts of this must be included when we consider the true cost of a fossil fuel driven economy.

If this year has taught us anything it is that the status quo is unacceptable and we must find new ways to deal with the triple threats of climate change, increasing economic stratification and racial injustice. We've watched California burn, racial justice uprisings around the country, and the disparities in how the coronavirus pandemic has affected black, brown, indigenous, and low-income people in our communities. What else needs to happen before we are ready to act on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors?!

In closing, I ask that the Environmental Quality Board affirm RGGI to pass on to the Governor and make modifications to the rulemaking to incorporate inclusion and equity and environmental justice principles.

Thank you for your time and consideration.