

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:01 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-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Re: eComment System****The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).**

Commenter Information:

Michael McAmis
(mcamismike12@gmail.com)
507 S. 41st St. Apt 1
Philadelphia, PA 19104 US

Comments entered:

Good afternoon, My name is Mike McAmis. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my support for Pennsylvania joining RGGI. I am a Philadelphia resident and Environmental Science student concerned about the harmful effects of climate change caused by anthropogenic sources like the fossil fuel industry.

I was born in northern Florida where I learned to respect the natural world, and developed an admiration for the sea that I believe has driven my hunger for climate justice. When I moved to Philadelphia in 2013, my love for the environment expanded from the beach to the rivers and forests of Pennsylvania. Despite our pride in our natural resources, It quickly became clear how reliant on the Fossil fuel industry Pennsylvania is.

In recent years, it's come into focus that burning fossil fuels is extremely harmful to our environment and the health of PA residents. The fact is that the impacts of the climate crisis have become increasingly apparent every day and Pennsylvania must work to reduce its carbon emissions. While there have been some improvements in other areas of the country in regards to reliance on fossil fuels, Pennsylvania plays a pretty outsized role in polluting our environment, and is currently the fourth largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

As a major climate polluter, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to reduce its greenhouse gas

emissions and develop a sustainable energy plan to ensure a livable future for the commonwealth and its people. The good news is that RGGI is already a proven model for success that is being utilized by many northeastern states to solve this problem. For example, in just one year PA can save \$2 billion in lifetime energy bill savings, and carbon emissions in our state could be reduced by 188 million tons by 2030 by joining this important climate program. The initiative is also projected to create 27,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania and put nearly \$2 billion into the state's economy over the next decade alone.

In short, it seems common sense to me to implement a program with benefits at this scale. It would help avoid damage to the health of our residents, environment, and climate while also creating new economic opportunities to transition to a sustainable energy economy. Personally, I want a clean and sustainable future for PA. A future where our air is clean, our waters run clear, and our residents can rest easy knowing that our future is secure. The fact is that our reliance on fossil fuels for energy is outdated, and our systems of energy production and consumption should reflect the current technological shifts that are taking place around the world. Thank you for your time.

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