



## Stephen Hoffman

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:00 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; 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)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

**Testimony name:** Public Hearing 1 (9am) - #7-559  
**Testimony date:** 12/8/2020 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:

Patrice Tomcik  
 (patricejustin@gmail.com)  
 211 Chesapeake Drive  
 Gibsonia, PA 15044 US

Comments entered:

Testimony of  
 Patrice Tomcik  
 December 8, 2020  
 9:00am – 12:00pm  
 CO2 Budget Trading Program  
 Environmental Quality Board  
 Department of Environmental Protection

Thank you for the opportunity to give comments today.

My name is Patrice Tomcik and I am the mother of two school aged children living in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. I am the Project Manager of State Campaigns for Moms Clean Air Force a national non-profit organization of over 1 million moms and dads united to protect our children's health

from air pollution and climate change.

Today I give my comments on my own behalf as a resident of Pennsylvania in support of the draft CO2 Budget Trading Program and linking to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. As the third largest greenhouse gas polluting state and home to the 5th dirtiest power sector, Pennsylvania has an outsized responsibility to cut climate warming carbon emissions.

In Pennsylvania we are experiencing climate change with increased flooding causing landslides, extreme weather, and ticks that carry Lyme disease. Pennsylvania has the most cases of Lyme disease in the nation and I personally know 11 people who have been treated for Lyme disease including my husband.

By having Pennsylvania participate in the RGGI program, it will cut climate warming carbon emissions and also have the benefit of reductions in harmful pollutants such as particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and heavy metals. Scientists have known for decades that air pollution is harmful to health and this is especially true for vulnerable populations such as older adults, people with underlying health conditions, communities of color, pregnant women, and children.

As a mother, I am concerned about what my children are breathing into their lungs every day, especially my youngest who battled cancer and has a compromised immune system. I try to make his home environment as healthy as possible but I can't control the air my son breathes and depend on my elected officials, state agencies and committees to do their jobs and protect them with comprehensive and meaningful pollution protections. Reductions in carbon and the associated harmful air pollution from the power sector can improve public health by reducing asthma attacks, heart disease, respiratory disease, pre term births, low birth weights, cancer and premature death. Because power plants are often located near communities of color and low-income communities, it is imperative to put in place meaningful safeguards to ensure environmental justice communities benefit from a rule that reduces carbon pollution from the power sector.

Another group that is vulnerable to air pollution are the elderly. My father, who died 2 weeks ago at the age of 73 years old, lived 1.5 miles downwind from the coal fired Cheswick Generating Station. The front of my father's house and every other house on the block is covered with a layer of soot. My father lived most of his adult life in this house and developed diabetes, COPD, and heart disease which caused a heart attack that required quintuple bypass surgery. My father was often gasping for a breath of fresh air and just last spring was put on portable oxygen.

The importance of clean air protections for our families and communities has never been clearer and moms like me won't accept continuing on the same polluting path we had before. The cost of inaction has already put our family's health at risk. I urge the EQB and the DEP to move deliberately and quickly on linking Pennsylvania to RGGI in order to address the climate crisis and improve public health.

Thank you for your time and continued work supporting environmental and public health protections for Pennsylvanians.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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