



## 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-jflanagan@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:

Richard Cole  
 (rcole6398@me.com)  
 224 Joseph Street  
 West Norriton, PA 19403 US

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Comments entered:

The following is a copy of the testimony I provided on 12/8/20.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and for listening to my testimony regarding my support for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. My name is Richard Cole, I live in west Norriton in Montgomery County.

I have experienced the devastating effects of climate change. Several years ago, I was nearly killed in a tornado, one of seven that struck New Orleans within hours - far outside tornado season. This was no outlier, as we are seeing worsening impacts that are attributable to climate change across the country, with extended record-setting wildfire and hurricane seasons, increased drought and floods, and rising sea levels that are threatening coastal communities. Often, hardest hit are lower income communities, otherwise known as environmental justice communities.

This is an issue that should not be politicized. Climate change affects us all, regardless of political affiliation. Shortly after hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast in 2005, republican governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, recognized the need to control greenhouse gas emissions, adopting legislation which had support from many republicans. The legislation has significantly helped cut emissions in that state. Schwarzenegger has touted California as "perfect proof that you can protect the environment and also protect the economy at the same time".

We are clearly seeing impacts of climate change all across the country, even right here in PA, with hotter summers, warmer winters and more frequent and dangerous flash floods. PA is one of the highest carbon emitting states in our nation, which makes it even more imperative that we adopt measures that control greenhouse gas emissions.

For too long now, the fossil fuel industry has been expanding its growth, including here in PA, to the detriment of our citizens and the environment. We must change the status quo and transition away from dirty fossil fuels and make the shift towards a clean energy economy. RGGI represents a tremendous opportunity to do just that. I have read quite a bit about RGGI and I think it's well past time that PA join this program. RGGI has been hugely successful in the other NE and mid-Atlantic states that have joined in terms of cutting carbon emissions, while bolstering the economy and funding renewable energy projects.

Schwarzenegger has called climate change "the issue of our time", and indeed it is. We can no longer afford to turn a blind eye or take half-measures in controlling our greenhouse gas emissions. Special interests must not be allowed to get in the way of progress in protecting the planet that we so rely on to maintain our way of life. For the sake of our future generations, including that of my daughters, I firmly believe Pennsylvania must join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

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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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