



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:07 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 5 (1pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/10/2020 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:

Barbara Brandom
 (bwb131252@gmail.com)
 1118 King Ave
 Pittsburgh, PA 15206 US

Comments entered:

My name is Barbara Wendeborn Brandom. I am speaking as a private citizen in support of

Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) because this will improve human health and reduce health related costs.

I worked as a physician anesthesiologist, in Pittsburgh, for more than 35 years. Peter Safar, MD was the Chair who hired me as a resident in his Department of Anesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine. His daughter Elizabeth died of asthma in Pittsburgh in the 1960s, at a time when air pollution existed at notoriously high levels.

Today air pollution persists in our region and still has significant health impacts. The specialty of Pediatric Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery was developed and thrives in Pittsburgh. Yet the surgeons didn't ask why so many children have chronic ear inflammation or why so many also

have asthma, an inflammatory disease of the lower airways. I personally suffer from several chronic inflammatory conditions. I used to think this was due to the sycamore trees, but now I see there is evidence that air pollution makes all these inflammatory conditions worse. Burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) among other pollutants. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases responsible for the increasing temperature of our atmosphere. The other air pollutants are responsible for premature deaths from respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease (including heart attacks and strokes) and cancers. Air pollution can induce asthma and upper airway inflammation, leading to chronic illness that limits productivity for years. Air pollution is also linked to mental health disorders, including the autism spectrum. Moreover, increasing temperatures produce more illness and death related to heat alone, especially in urban heat islands, and more cases of disease transmitted by insects. Increasing temperatures lead to stronger winds and heavier rain storms which threaten physical safety of people and the stability of infrastructure on which their communities depend. There is no question that as burning of fossil fuels declines, air pollution will decline and those illnesses that were induced by air pollution will decrease in severity and eventually in incidence. Pennsylvanians will be healthier through participation in RGGI. Projected health benefits between \$3 billion and \$6 billion through 2030, including more than 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and more than 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis are expected. Estimates of improved adult health will result in 83,000 fewer lost workdays through 2030 due to reduced air pollution. An independent study in 2017 by Abt Associates, "Analysis of the Public Health Impacts of RGGI, 2009-2014" showed that states had significant health benefits in the first 6 years of participating in RGGI. As the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation (after CA, TX, FL), Pennsylvania has the responsibility to be a leader in implementing climate solutions by reducing emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Our health and the lives of our children and grandchildren depend on rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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