



My name is Dina Carter Ishler and I am a resident of Lititz, Pennsylvania. My husband and I and our three children, aged twenty-three, twenty and seventeen years old, are avid campers and kayakers who enjoy visiting a wide variety of Pennsylvania's state parks. Our older son is an Eagle Scout and is devoted to spending time in and caring for the wilderness. Maintaining the beauty of God's creation that we find in Pennsylvania's forests and pristine waterways, both for living and for recreational purposes, is important to our whole family. As both a follower of Christ and as someone discerning a call to ordained ministry, how we care for God's creation is deeply significant to me.

Knowing that climate change is one of the greatest threats our earth faces, I am profoundly disturbed at the news that Pennsylvania is the third dirtiest state in the country in terms of carbon pollution. It is time for Pennsylvania to get on board with a proven program, such as the bipartisan RGGI, or Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I am hopeful that Pennsylvania will benefit from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as other states have by greatly reducing carbon pollution, creating 27,000 + jobs, and adding nearly \$2 billion to the state's economy.

The issue of repairing past harms to environmental justice communities is one close to my heart. Because these are often low-income communities and their residents may disproportionately be people of color, the harm caused by pollution adds additional layers to the history of systemic and communal racism or socio-economic discrimination long faced by these persons. I agree wholeheartedly with the suggestion that environmental justice communities who do not see an immediate decrease in emission levels should receive no less than twenty percent of the fund earned by RGGI to fund environmental and health mitigation projects, with these projects prioritized in such communities. I also would advocate for creating other funds to address quality of life issues in environmental justice

communities such as green space development, lead removal programs, reduction of food deserts, and affordable housing systems. To allow poor physical health, devalued land and substandard housing, and high unemployment to continue to affect these communities is a social justice issue that the benefits of RGGI can work towards improving, thus raising the quality of life for those who live there.

I am concerned because we are already experiencing the negative effects of climate change in Pennsylvania in many different areas. The dramatic rise of temperatures in Pennsylvania due to climate change will have a negative effect on our everyday lives, as heat related illnesses and subsequent missed work days will increase as we see more days over ninety degrees. Our farmers- a backbone of much of our state's economy- will be negatively impacted by this, especially our dairy farmers. Climate change is also contributing to such health threats as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus, as well as other tick and mosquito borne illnesses. All of these issues prevent us from both working and living well in our beautiful state as we would like to do.

Participation in RGGI will benefit Pennsylvania in so many ways as it works to cut climate pollution by a third, increases jobs and helps eliminate missed work days, spurs job creation, and helps to make our citizens and neighborhoods safer and healthier. Thank you for considering this testimony. We as Pennsylvanians want and expect our lawmakers to address climate change. In summary, RGGI is the market based, job creating, proven tool for Pennsylvania to tackle the problems that create climate change and adversely affect our beautiful state.