



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:08 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-jflanagan@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.



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:

Eva Resnick-Day  
 PA Sierra Club (eresnickday@gmail.com)  
 2013 Columbia Ave  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15218 US

Comments entered:

I'm here as a lifelong Pittsburgher, a community organizer, and a breather of air. As a younger person with most of my life still ahead of me, I am somebody that is forced to inherit the challenges of increased wildfires, floods, food shortages,. Of figuring out how to live on an uninhabitable planet because generations before me have chosen not to act.

We have less than a short ten years left according to IPCC to make some drastic changes so as to not pass the tipping point at which the feedback loops on climate cannot be stopped. Here we are in the 11th hour--Our Hail Mary pass. The economy, our conception of jobs, the stock market-- these things we currently organize our society around will not matter if we can't grow enough food to eat, if we don't have enough life sustaining water, if we don't have a place to live. The Global pandemic has allowed us to see a small glimpse of what this may look like-- when we wipe everything away down to the core, what we found was essential grocery store workers (access to food), doctors and nurses (access to health), public transportation (access to

get the things we need). The Global pandemic has forced us to reckon with what's really needed in ways we couldn't have imagined a year ago. Climate change will force us to reckon with what is important to survive on this planet. A lot of our political arguments today will look frivolous. And in this Global equation of carbon and looming climate change of 195 countries, the little old state of Pennsylvania plays a hugely outsized role-- we account for 1% of global carbon pollution. We have a responsibility to future generations.

We are lucky enough to have a clearly laid out, tested program in RGGI. It has successfully lowered power plant emissions in RGGI states by 45% since 2009, has brought 4 billion in economic value, consumers have saved 1 billion on energy costs, and each RGGI state has seen health benefits. With the timeline mother nature has given us, climate action won't always look so win-win-win.

We have an opportunity right now to make this inevitable transition from fossil fuels for Pennsylvanians with RGGI-- to really invest in community-led energy efficiency programs, clean energy, and support an intentional worker transition. Our window to make this transition smoother and not an abrupt disaster is dwindling.

I urge the EQB to finalize the rulemaking as soon as possible and support the proposed rule with minor adjustments.

Where the investments go is key, and as a Pittsburgher I know the detrimental health impacts of air pollution in our communities, particularly black and brown communities, that live near power plants. DEP needs to regularly assess the level of pollutants in environmental (in)justice communities, and if the exposures of increasing or not improving, DEP must engage residents and leaders to identify an appropriate remedy.

Residents know how to assess and address the problems in their own communities if given the resources and support. Pittsburghers face particularly high energy burdens. Whereas the national percentage of income used on energy bills is 3.5, over one-quarter of low-income families in Pittsburgh pay an astounding 16% or more of their household income on utilities. Most of that burden falls on African-American households. And we know from studies that this burden greatly affects mental and physical health of families. In 2018, Sierra Club partnered with CCI and Operation Better Block on the Grassroots Green Homes Project in Homewood-- a neighborhood that is over 98% black-- to provide 12 tools and tips to hundreds over the course of a year that helped families save an average of 15% on utility bill, and deeply weatherized and renovated 30 homes for even greater savings. We listened to and followed the lead of the neighborhood groups to sign up 300 families, who engaged the program to use and install tools, build energy efficiency competency, and build a community of support. It's nearing 3 years since we knocked our first door, and this group of families still meets, finds community, visions and takes action on issues together.

This was just one neighborhood, and one round. Imagine what we can do ALL across Pittsburgh, all across PA with investments from RGGI to improve the health of our neighborhoods, lessen overall energy use and burden on our energy grid, and save money for families.

---

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](mailto:ecomment@pa.gov)