



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:07 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-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:

Hannah Enderby
 (enderby@duq.edu)
 1473 Stoltz Rd
 Bethel Park, PA 15102 US

Comments entered:

My name is Hannah Enderby, and I am a 22-year-old native Pennsylvanian and 4th year Environmental Science and Management major at Duquesne University. My ultimate goal is to help in solving worldwide major climate crises, but somehow I find it ironic that the state I'm from is one of the leaders in the western world contributing to the man-made global warming crisis. As a devoted runner and hiker, who has spent hundreds of hours walking and running the trails and beautiful parks/forests of Pennsylvania, I've noticed the decline in quality of our forests and air quality. The effects of pollution are becoming more apparent as the number of cold winter days decreases and the number of poor air-quality days increases. Also, my favorite outdoor activities have become harder over the years with my asthma. Before I go outside to run or walk, I always check the air quality so that I am not putting myself at risk for asthma, or chronic lung damage, from breathing in the air on a poor air-quality day. These poor air-quality days are more frequent, and it's concerning to me how much pollution Pennsylvania generates.

In order to meaningfully address climate change in Pennsylvania, a good start is participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI. RGGI's cap-and-invest mechanism is part of a market-based program that facilitates reductions in carbon emissions from the electric power sector. Pennsylvania's polluting power sector – the fourth dirtiest in the nation – can achieve significant emissions reductions over time and in so doing, create revenues that can be used toward energy efficiency and renewable energy including solar and wind that will power our future. Seeing as how Pennsylvania's electric power sector emits over 89 million tons of carbon pollution annually, action is critical and linking to a program like RGGI can help put our state on track to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century.

RGGI states have reduced their overall carbon emissions by 36 percent over the past decade. Companies have an incentive to lower their emissions as the markets drive the need to remain competitive with low- and no-emission power sources. RGGI is no abstraction: Rather, RGGI states have reduced their carbon emissions AND returned over \$2 billion in proceeds to participating states. These revenues power clean energy and the all-important jobs that come with them. Additionally, electric bills in RGGI states are projected to be 35% lower in a decade than they are today – those are real dollars in consumer pockets.

In a September 2020 poll, 72% of Pennsylvania voters supported the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. To date, RGGI has been successfully implemented in red, blue and purple states. That matters – citizens want action on climate and RGGI is a real, tangible way to achieve that objective while protecting public health now and ensuring a cleaner, safer environment for future generations.

That said, I want to see the Department of Environmental Protection proceed with the RGGI rulemaking and quickly at that. We are all beyond blessed to live up in a state as beautiful as Pennsylvania, and it is critical that we work together to protect it for my generation and future generations. Lastly, I'd like to thank the DEP for hosting an accessible, convenient, and seamless virtual public hearing process that further helps to reduce our carbon footprint as it eliminates the need to travel to hearings across the state.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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