



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program

Jonathan Warnock

1199 Water st

Indiana, PA 15701

jonathanpwarock@gmail.com

Indiana Borough Council

Hello and thank you for your attention. My name is Jonathan Warnock. I am an Associate Professor of Geoscience at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. As a scientist, I study Antarctica, its oceans and its ice sheets over the past 15 million years. I am a climate scientist. I am here speaking as a citizen of Pennsylvania and representing the borough council of Indiana Borough. I have been asked to mention that one of the twelve members of council wanted more time than we had to consider RGGI, and so I do not represent council unanimously.

Joining the RGGI is extremely important. The effects of climate change are here, and already affecting western PA. In Indiana we struggle with storm water. Homes routinely flood. Properties are extensively damaged. An increasing amount of tax money is spent managing storm water. Record breaking and near record breaking rainfall occurs in Indiana County most years now. Fields flood, damaging or destroying crops and leaving farmers struggling to pay the bills. The science is clear; this is a result of climate change. We need the RGGI to begin to address climate change. We can no longer wait to push these problems onto future generations.

The effects of climate change in PA do not stop at flooding and infrastructure. Climate change related winter and spring temperature fluctuations are affecting our trees. This year our fruiting trees budded out early, as we had an unusually warm winter. A typical early May frost killed the buds. Without climate change, these trees would not yet have budded and they would have produced fruit. Instead, the trees this year are barren. The impacts of this loss range from the level of the individual homeowner up to large orchard businesses losing revenue. Much of Pennsylvania's industry, from agriculture to logging to tourism, is tied to our woods. The longer we wait to address climate change, the more our forests will suffer. This will reduce our quality of life, change our way of life, and lead to continued job losses. Forests aren't the only problem. Rising temperatures and flooding are already affecting agriculture, industry and public health. These changes are only expected to be magnified in the future. We need to take action to stop these losses.

The economies and quality of life in Indiana Borough and Indiana County have long been tied to coal. However, as automation replaces miners and powerplant workers, energy industry jobs have declined. Like much of western PA, Indiana is struggling with unemployment, a decreased tax base and poverty. The RGGI can help to solve those problems by creating jobs, job training programs and providing tax revenue the state can use to support coal country. Further, the RGGI can work. We have already seen how similar initiatives in western PA coal-fired power plants have helped to reduce sulfates in the atmosphere and the associated dangers of acid rain. The states that have already joined the RGGI have seen both a decrease in carbon emissions and raised billions to invest in clean energy, viable training

programs that lead to job training and jobs themselves. Pennsylvania has benefited from coal and now we have a responsibility to address the damage that coal has done to our climate. Indiana County has been a leader in this area, with two successful solar co-ops having lead to more than two dozen homes, including mine, going solar over the past two years.

Indiana Borough has been leading in western PA in the fight against climate change. Joining the RGGI fits with Indiana Borough's climate action plan. It will improve public health, save money, create jobs, and protect our natural resources. The Borough of Indiana thanks you for your time and attention. We ask you to support Pennsylvania joining the New England and Mid-Atlantic RGGI for the sake of our community, our economy and our future generations. Thank you for your time.