



Joseph Croskey,
Camp Happy, 32 Raypush Lane, Clarion PA 16214
jcroskey@clarion.edu

Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

I stand here before you today because you matter and because what we do matters. Specifically, I believe our actions have impact. And some of them matter more than others, although all of them count.

When you and I look back at our lives, hopefully we will have few regrets.

Hopefully we will be able to tell children and grandchildren that we provided for their future.

My name is Joseph Croskey and I am a resident of a rural western Pennsylvania township called Limestone, near Clarion and part of the Pennsylvania Wilds. Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this virtual public hearing. I am speaking AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I think respecting and honoring the places on this planet that are most full of life – Cook Forest, Allegheny Forest, Clarion and Allegheny rivers - The Three Rivers, & more, is of vital importance to so many things. The health and vitality of the Keystone states citizens and communities is at the top of that list.

None of us will regret saving the Pennsylvania WILDS and other vital zones, from the Great Lakes -to Philly, Poconos to Pittsburgh, Alleghenies, Laurel Highlands, Dutch Country and all in between...but we and future citizens might deeply regret if we don't.

Every day you live – you impact the planet. This summer I really found that out first hand. I live in rural western & our water is supplied by a well. We didn't have rain for weeks. We (and many of our neighbors fared worse) didn't have enough water for basic household use and we had to fetch water from a nearby pipe. The farm across the street only got one cut of hay and they normally have two. Shockingly - The squirrels disappeared. That was the alarm that woke us up. That led us to provide water from our dehumidifier for the birds in a birdbath we pulled out of the garage. In addition, my wife has suffered from Lymes disease from a tick bite and every year we're plagued by ticks, stinkbugs & other invasive insects that have invaded & survive due to changes in weather.

So I ask, What is it to be human, what really matters for survival of our grandchildren and the other beings we are called to serve?

My family and I resolved to make changes that can have significant impact now and for future generations & we will continue doing our part to support a sustainable planet. My wife, Sunshine and I recycle, we consume responsibly, reduced plastic use, shop local, drive less, purchase products sourced from sustainable materials, and promise to let others know about changes they can make to improve their lives and the planet's. I invite you to take action on the part of the commonwealth to make a difference.

It is rather certain that the path we're on is not sustainable. Like eating too much sugar leads to poor health outcomes, we have to take action that leads to good health outcomes. Our connection to the earth is real, whether we acknowledge it or not.

Everything we love is either nature or sustained by nature...

I invite you to discern the next steps that will help us team up and help the planet that sustains us and those we love.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today. In summary, RGGI is the market-based, job-creating, tool for Pennsylvania to choose that will provide for a bountiful happy future.