



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation

Good evening,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today. My name is Michele Mitchell and I live in (2 Meadowbrook Drive) Selinsgrove, PA 17870. (My email address is micheleam54@icloud.com). I am a member of the Susquehanna Valley chapters of Climate Reality Project and Citizens' Climate Lobby and I am testifying (as a private individual) in support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). I am a lifelong resident of Snyder County, a retired registered nurse, mother of three sons and grandmother to 5 precious children. I share these roles with you because they are the reason I wanted to testify here today.

I am in the habit of checking my smartphone for the weather and recently was surprised to see that air quality has been added to the other weather predictions. I was even more surprised to see that the air quality assessment for the day in question was rated as poor. I am grateful to live in a fairly rural area and have believed our air quality to be generally quite good.

In 2017, however, Pennsylvania was responsible for emission of approximately 263 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere. Production and consumption of energy accounted for nearly 90 percent of these emissions. According to the commonwealth's Environmental Quality Board, Pennsylvania's electricity generating units (EGU's) rank 4th among the highest CO2 emitting EGU's in the country.

One of my nursing roles was as a Respiratory Nurse Specialist which means I cared for people with Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD) and asthma. These individuals are negatively impacted by poor air quality. By reducing carbon pollution with the added benefit of lowering pollution of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and particulates we have the opportunity to decrease morbidity and mortality from lung disease. Additionally, a recent study from Columbia University found that reduction of air pollution in RGGI states has decreased the incidence of childhood asthma, preterm births and low birth weights. Predictions are that after 10 years of participation in RGGI, we will have saved the lives of 639 people, avoided 40,000 asthma attacks in children, prevented 83,000 lost work days and saved healthcare costs estimated by the EPA to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

For patients with lung disease and for my family, please don't allow PA to be the only mid-Atlantic state which has not signed on to this life-saving initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.