



Good evening, my name is Mitch Karaica and I have been a proud member of the IBEW employee at the Cheswick Generating Station for 22 years. I am also a life long resident of the Cheswick/Springdale area. I am speaking to you tonight in opposition to Governor Wolf's proposed regulation of the CO2 budget trading program which will join Pennsylvania into the regional greenhouse gas initiative. I urge the independent regulatory reform commission to reject Governor Wolf's proposed RGGI tax.

The Pennsylvania house voted 130-71 in favor of house bill 2025, and the senate voted 33-17 in favor of it also. This bill would put the decision to join RGGI into the hands of the Pennsylvania general assembly where it should be. Unfortunately, Governor Wolf vetoed this bill despite overwhelming support from the Legislature. Pennsylvania has the largest full time Legislature in the nation at 253 members that are elected by their constituents, yet we have a Governor that is ignoring not only the Legislature, but the residents of Pennsylvania who's, voices are being ignored.

The adoption of RGGI will result in the loss of over 8,000 jobs, the loss of \$2.87 billion dollars in total economic impact, the loss of \$539 million dollars in employee compensation and the loss of \$34.2 million dollars in State and Local taxes. As a resident of Springdale this will affect my family and my community much more than most of the people that will be speaking at these hearings. I will not only lose my job of 22 years, but my school and property taxes will increase for not only me, but the whole community. This comes just as we are finding out that our sewage rates are doubling due to another unfunded mandate by the Pennsylvania DEP. Small businesses will close, and our small community will begin to shutter as so many before it have. The Governor and environmental groups will claim victory and move on to their next victim while the residents of Springdale are left to pick up the pieces without revenue from it's 2 power plants that anchored our community for decades.

I ask you is the destruction of these families and communities worth the benefits? The Governor's own modeling confirms that most of the carbon dioxide reductions from plant closures will shift to non RGGI states like Ohio and West Virginia. Those states will take our 8,000 jobs and tax revenues. As a result, carbon dioxide emissions will increase across our border and in our region, which will more than offset any carbon dioxide reductions in Pennsylvania. RGGI makes no sense for a state like Pennsylvania, which possesses an abundance of coal and natural gas resources, and as a result, has the most reliable, affordable and resilient portfolio of electric generation in the Country.

Once again, I urge the independent regulatory reform commission and Governor Wolf to reject the proposed RGGI tax. Thank you.