



Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation; 9 December 2020, 1pm

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Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Sandy Field and I am the chair of the Susquehanna Valley Pennsylvania chapter of the Climate Reality Project, a global organization dedicated to communicating about the urgency of taking action on the climate crisis. I speak today on behalf of our chapter which includes 30 members. I am also a freelance science and medical writer and a mom and I have lived in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for the past 18 years. I have spent many happy days camping, skiing, biking, and boating in Pennsylvania's forests, parks, and waterways and have a deep appreciation for the invaluable air, water, and forest resources in our state.

I am speaking today in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as one of the programs the Governor has undertaken to reduce carbon emissions in our state. As a major energy producing state and the 5th highest producer of carbon dioxide emissions in the country, it is imperative that Pennsylvania reduce its emissions because we are already facing the effects of the climate crisis and the time to act is now. Waiting any longer will result in terrible costs in terms of lives, property, and livelihoods.

Data from Pennsylvania DEP show that 56% of electricity generation in our state comes from the burning of fossil fuels and this accounts for 29% of the state's total greenhouse gas emissions. Another 31% of our emissions come from industrial practices related to obtaining coal and gas. This means that 60% of the greenhouse gas emissions in Pennsylvania are directly related to two sectors focused on the acquisition or burning of fossil fuels, making reductions in these sectors critical to meeting our shared goal of reducing our carbon emissions. I fully support the plan to reduce Pennsylvania's emissions from electricity generation using the proven, market-based solution outlined in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

One of the main reasons to support RGGI is that it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way that will benefit Pennsylvania's economy. The states that have been in the program since it started in 2009 report a wide range of benefits including health savings from reduced pollution, increased funding for green energy and energy efficiency projects that create good local jobs, and the availability of funding to offset potential electric bill increases associated with paying the true cost of fossil fuel electricity generation. The program is estimated to generate up to \$320 million per year for Pennsylvania. Current RGGI states use some of their money to support energy efficiency programs such as weatherization. They also use the money to help low income homeowners to make green energy improvements that they would otherwise not be able to afford. This further lowers the emissions of member states and can provide real benefit to vulnerable communities who are often the most impacted by extreme weather events caused by the climate crisis.

We support RGGI because it is a proven method for Pennsylvania to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in a way that will allow our economy to thrive and transition away from fossil fuel energy sources that have served us well in the past but are now literally killing us. Pennsylvania can still be an energy leader with some foresight and careful planning and RGGI is a good start.