



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Danielle Buehler
 (bowerdanielle@gmail.com)
 3534 New Queen St
 Philadelphia, PA 19129 US

Comments entered:

Dear DEP Regulatory Comments,

It is critically important that Pennsylvania starts to meaningfully address its contribution to climate change. I urge the Department of Environmental Protection to swiftly finalize this proposed rulemaking to allow Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) beginning in January 2022. Pennsylvania has the fifth-dirtiest electric power sector in the country, and this sector is responsible for roughly one-third of Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas pollution. As a globally significant polluter, Pennsylvania has a heightened responsibility to reduce its emissions and combat climate change. Linking with RGGI would be a monumental step in the right direction.

This CO2 Budget Trading Program will significantly reduce harmful carbon pollution and protect public health. The proceeds from RGGI must be invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, thereby positioning Pennsylvania to become a leader in the growing clean energy economy. Indeed, Pennsylvania will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in proceeds annually from this program. These funds must be invested in targeted efforts to eliminate air pollution, spur job creation, support working Pennsylvanians, and help boost the state's long-term economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, it is important that a portion of the proceeds be used to help workers and communities who will be affected by the ongoing

and inevitable transition of the energy market away from coal and natural gas to cleaner sources of generation.

I urge DEP to provide a mechanism to adjust the starting allowance budget if actual emissions are lower than currently projected. It can be challenging to accurately predict future emissions, and a cap that is set too high will affect the integrity of the program.

It's time to tap into RGGI's record of success, invest in sustainable jobs in our transitioning energy sector, and reduce our carbon pollution. In light of Governor Tom Wolf's greenhouse gas reduction goals set forth in Executive Order 2019-01, participating in RGGI is an essential policy step for Pennsylvania. Thank you for your consideration.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov