



Testimony for Proposed Rulemaking: CO₂ Budget Trading Program

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My name is Eric Langenmayr, and I want to thank you for allowing me to testify. I am a retired PhD chemist so I know a little about science and how it is done and I know that climate change is real and that we have a limited time to reduce GHG emissions to prevent climate disaster.

I was ecstatic when a year ago, Governor Wolf signed an executive order instructing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to formulate regulations to join RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the first market based cap and trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from the electric power sector.

Why should PA reduce GHGs? Pennsylvania's electric power sector is currently the fifth dirtiest in the nation. If Pennsylvania were a country, it would rank in the top 20 GHG emitters in the entire world, and fully 1/3 of those emissions come from our electric power sector. If we don't reduce our GHG emissions, Pennsylvania will continue to become warmer and wetter. The average temperature of PA has risen by 2F since 1901 and average rainfall has increased by 10%. We are seeing the effects of increased rainfall, flooding and stronger storms, more deaths from heat and respiratory illness, increases in West Nile virus and Lyme disease, disruptions to agriculture, increased power outages and increased infrastructure costs. Globally, the world is seeing more and hotter heat waves, increased melting of glaciers, more and stronger hurricanes, sea level rise, ocean acidification, desertification and on and on. Pennsylvania is a significant contributor to the world's GHG emissions. This is why we urgently need to reduce our GHG emissions.¹

Why should PA join RGGI? Because RGGI, with its 10 member states, has been a huge success since its inception in 2009. RGGI has shown that you can cut GHG emissions while simultaneously expanding the economy and creating jobs. Although touted as a cap and trade program, it also is a cap and trade and invest program. From 2009 till 2017, the RGGI sent 2.4 billion dollars back to its member states. These dollars were invested in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance to tens of thousands of households. Emissions from RGGI member states are down by 47%, beating

¹<http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/GetDocument?docId=1676374&DocName=CLIMATE%20IMPACTS:%20A%20CHANGING%20PENNSYLVANIA.PDF%20%20%3cspan%20style%3D%22color:green%3b%22%3e%3c/span%3e%20%3cspan%20style%3D%22color:blue%3b%22%3e%28NEW%29%3c/span%3e>

emissions decreases from the rest of the nation by 90%. GDP of RGGI states grew by 47%, while GDP growth in the rest of the country was 31%.^{2,3,4}

What can PA expect as a result of joining RGGI? Estimates are that by joining RGGI, beginning in 2022 till 2030, that Pennsylvanian's carbon emissions will be reduced by 21% or 188 million tons. It's estimated that RGGI will add 27,000 jobs and 1.9 billion dollars to the Pa economy. Funds from RGGI can be invested in spurring job growth, addressing environmental injustice, supporting working Pennsylvanians and increasing energy efficiency. In addition, it is estimated that there would be 6 billion dollars of health benefits for PA in the decade after joining RGGI, including 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and more than 1000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis. Lower air pollution in RGGI states has resulted in fewer respiratory illnesses, and heart attacks and we can expect the same in Pennsylvania. So, significant public health improvement, significant job creation, reduction in retail electricity prices, dramatic reductions in GHG emissions, and significant economic growth.

We need to join RGGI now and I wholeheartedly support the Proposed Rule.

Thank You for considering my testimony.

²<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/01/power-plant-emissions-down-47-percent-under-the-regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative/>

³<https://www.analysisgroup.com/news-and-events/news/latest-study-from-analysis-group-confirms-that-rggi-program-continues-to-boost-the-economy-and-create-jobs/>

⁴https://www.rrgi.org/sites/default/files/Uploads/Proceeds/RGGI_Proceeds_Report_2017.pdf