



~~RGGI TESTIMONY 12/10/20 - DRAFT~~

Formatted: No underline

Testimony of

Franklin L. Kury to the Environmental Quality Board on December 10, 2020 in Harrisburg, PA. (Virtual)

---

My name is Franklin L. Kury and I reside at 2416 Zell Court, Hummelstown, Dauphin County. I am retired and am making this testimony of my own volition. I am not being compensated by anyone and am speaking only for myself as a citizen of the state.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative(RGGI) is a positive step by ten state governments to confront climate change, the greatest environmental threat to our state, our country and the world as a whole. The regulation before the Commission will make

Pennsylvania a member of that regional state effort.t

I support the RGGI because it deals directly with the main cause of global warming and climate change – the continuing discharge of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Two overriding forces mandate that Pennsylvania join the RGGI.

First, the impending point of no return for saving the planet is hard upon us. It is the overwhelming consensus of the scientific and environmental communities that climate change is a “clear and present danger” to our earth. Recent reports from the [U.S. Global Change Research Program’s National Climate Assessment](#), as well as the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), as reported in the New York Times, Time Magazine and the National Geographic, ~~as well as the United Nations~~, have told us the time for action is

now. If we have not reached net zero emissions of carbon by 2050, our planet and its people will suffer severe and irreparable consequences. ~~will slide into death by suffocation.~~

The second mandate is in Article 1, Section 27 of our state constitution. This provides that the public natural resources of the Pennsylvania - such as ~~the~~ rivers and ~~atmosphere~~ atmosphere – are the common property of the people of present and future generations

The third sentence in the amendment makes the government of Pennsylvania the trustee of these resources to conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

Article 1, Section 27 – titled Natural Resources and the Public Estate – was adopted by the voters of Pennsylvania on May 18, 1971 by a four to one margin, 1,023,342 to 259,579.

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Article 1, Section 27 next May, I - as the author of the amendment while a State Representative – can think of no better action by the state government to carry out its trusteeship responsibilities than -in this proposed regulation, which would enable Pennsylvania to join proposals like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

I urge prompt approval by this Board.

# # # # #