



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 1:40 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-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 6 (6pm) - #7-559
Testimony date: 12/10/2020 12:00:00 AM
Testimony location: WebEx

Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Kenneth Davis
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Comments entered:

First, I would like to thank Governor Wolf and the Department of Environmental Protection for setting greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for the state of Pennsylvania, and for advancing toward those targets by proposing that Pennsylvania join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, that is, RGGI. I am strongly in favor of the state joining RGGI.

I am speaking as a private citizen, but I have spent my entire professional life studying climate change. I am a Professor of Atmospheric and Climate Science in the Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science at Penn State, where I have worked for 20 years. My research and teaching focus on understanding the changing greenhouse gas concentrations in the Earth's atmosphere.

A quick summary of decades of research is this: greenhouse gas concentrations are rising rapidly, and we are responsible. The burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of this rapid rise in greenhouse gas concentrations. This change in atmospheric composition is pushing the Earth's climate system into dangerous and uncharted territory. Climate change is happening now, and

we are the cause.

The consequences of climate change are serious, and will become increasingly dire in the coming decades. Pennsylvania is facing flooding of increasing frequency and severity, and extremes of heat and humidity that we have never experienced before. These are not hypothetical future problems; they are here today, and they will be growing worse tomorrow.

You can't see greenhouse gases with your eyes, and you can't smell them. But you can measure their concentrations with specialized laser-based instruments. Part of my job involves measuring greenhouse gases in the atmosphere using research aircraft equipped with these instruments. When we fly downwind of the state of Pennsylvania, our instruments can "see" the plume of greenhouse gases that we, the citizens of Pennsylvania, are currently dumping into the earth's atmosphere.

These greenhouse gases, released by our consumption of fossil fuels, will remain in the atmosphere for centuries to come - not months, not years, but centuries. Generation upon generation into the future will suffer from the greenhouse gases we emit today.

The good news is that we can solve this problem and strengthen our state as we do it. The time to act is now. Pennsylvania must commit to cleaning up its act. Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the right thing to do.

Transitioning to a carbon-free energy system based on renewable sources like the sun and the wind is the right thing to do for our climate, our health and our economy. If Pennsylvania joins RGGI and puts a price on greenhouse gas pollution, we will accelerate the transition to clean energy. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas pollution, joining RGGI will lead to a reduction in the type of air pollution that can make us sick when we breathe it - fine particulate matter, for example. Joining RGGI both helps prevent harmful climate change, and makes Pennsylvania's air safer to breathe. And it will help Pennsylvania to build the energy economy of the future.

Joining RGGI won't solve the climate crisis. No single state, industry or nation can do this alone. But collectively we can solve the climate crisis, if we take serious action now. RGGI is a step toward a future where we no longer use the atmosphere as a global wastebasket, our climate is stable, the air we breathe is safe and clean, and we have a healthy and sustainable energy economy.

Once again, I thank Governor Wolf for proposing that Pennsylvania takes this critical and historic step. Pennsylvania should, without a doubt, join RGGI.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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