



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 1:45 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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Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Lois Ventura
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Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

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. 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. Building green energy infrastructure would stimulate the economy and job growth on a scale of FDR's New Deal, when America began to thrive, building a strong middle class.

Frighteningly, just in the last 10 years, I have watched the ski resorts in the Laurel Highlands decimated (no snow!), the summer floods that have washed through my yard (I'm in the mountains, not a flood zone!), alternating with dangerous droughts (fire hazard). Pennsylvania should not be left behind as the rest of the region progresses into 21st Century infrastructure, while taking measures to quickly reduce and eliminate CO2 emissions.

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

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