



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:

Rachel Golman
 (racheljmartin@gmail.com)
 4212 Saline St
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217 US

Comments entered:

Hello, my name is Rachel Golman and I live in Pittsburgh. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. And, most importantly, thank you for initiating this rule-making for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

With RGGI, we have the opportunity to make progress on addressing the climate crisis, and helping grow our economy by building clean energy and reducing PA residents' electric bills.

In southwest Pennsylvania where I live, we are surrounded by power plants, many of which continue to burn coal. We are paying the price for the pollution emitted from these plants with our quality of life and in medical bills, as we experience continued poor air quality and the resulting health consequences including elevated asthma attacks, other respiratory disorders, and heart attacks. We also have been seeing the impacts of climate change grow at an ever-increasing pace, with hotter summers that exacerbate our air quality problems, warmer winters

that are destroying our winter recreation industry, and myriad weather impacts that are challenging our region's farmers and driving up their costs of operation.

My children are 5 and 3 years old, and I worry what their future holds. I worry that by living in this place we love that we are subjecting their young lungs to pollution that may have life-long health consequences. Eli, my youngest, has thank goodness not yet been diagnosed with asthma, but he has an inhaler and nebulizer, and we've had to use it on some of the worst air-quality days, which are becoming more numerous every year. I worry that they and their peers will be left to bear the incredible economic burden, upheaval, and devastation that climate change will cause if we continue on our current path.

A few years ago, we installed solar panels on our home. We are very fortunate and privileged to be in a position to do this. We were able to put the money upfront and have seen a decrease in our electric bills as a result. But I have talked to many, many families who would love to see solar on their roofs, and simply can't afford it. If these families lived over the border in NY, however, they'd be able to tap into a number of rooftop solar programs, many funded through RGGI, that make this a much more affordable option. Families throughout PA who are struggling to pay their electric bills could benefit from efficiency programs and jobs implementing those programs. I've lived in PA for 20 years, but I grew up in western NY, and have family in several parts of the state. When I am in NY, the difference in investment in clean energy is immediately apparent - all one needs to do is take a drive through any neighborhood and you'll see houses with solar. They have myriad efficiency programs to tap into. Here, solar panels remain unattainable for many, and families are left paying outsized electric bills as a result of leaky homes and inefficient appliances all while the need for increased summer cooling continues to become an imperative.

Other states in our region that have joined RGGI have seen a decrease in carbon and other air pollution while also seeing a greater rate of economic growth, and reduction of electricity prices than the national average. By moving the burden of paying for carbon pollution from families to those emitting the pollution, we can realize a win-win scenario, reducing climate and pollution impacts while creating renewable energy and efficiency jobs. Joining RGGI is the sensible approach, and I applaud Governor Wolf and the DEP for taking this step.

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