



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com; siversen@pahouse.net
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



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:

Thomas Gilbert
 (tgilber4542@comcast.net)
 4542 Deep Creek Way
 Doylestown, PA 18902 US

Comments entered:

Good evening. My name is Tom Gilbert, and I am a resident of Buckingham Township in Bucks County. I am testifying as a citizen, and as the father of two teenage daughters who is scared about what kind of future we are leaving to our children and grandchildren if we don't address the climate crisis. I strongly support Pennsylvania joining RGGI, a common-sense, market-based, proven approach that has helped to reduce greenhouse emissions by nearly half in participating states, while generating almost \$3 billion in revenue for clean energy and other purposes.

Given that Pennsylvania's electric sector generates the fifth most emissions of any state nationwide, we have an obligation to clean up our own act. If we fail to act, we risk the health and safety of our communities, and enormous economic consequences. We are already experiencing the effects of climate change and scientists warn that this is only the beginning. For example, PennDot spent more than \$125 million in 2018 alone to repair damage from floods and landslides, and power outages from extreme storms hit a record high in 2019, events made

worse by climate change.

Expert analysis conducted for DEP projects that participation in RGGI will reduce emissions by 21% in Pennsylvania, while generating hundreds of millions of dollars annually for the state. This can be done at very little cost to ratepayers. Pennsylvania will continue to have the lowest electricity rate among RGGI states and consumers will save from investments in energy efficiency.

The benefits will be enormous, including the addition of 27,000 jobs and \$1.9 billion to the state's economy. Some of the funds generated can be used to help workers and communities affected by the transition away from fossil fuels to renewable and other clean sources of energy. Studies have shown that investments in renewable energy, such as wind and solar, create twice as many jobs per dollar than similar investments in fossil fuel projects such as pipelines. According to E2, nearly 94,000 Pennsylvanians are already employed in clean energy sectors such as renewables, storage, energy efficiency and clean vehicles. Funds from RGGI can help to expand job opportunities in these industries of the future and spur a green recovery to the pandemic.

And the transition to clean energy will reduce harmful emissions that cause significant health impacts and make us more vulnerable to COVID-19. Reduced pollution will produce \$6 billion in health benefits through 2030, and approximately 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis.

In closing, it is past time for Pennsylvania to do the right and smart thing by joining RGGI, and to embrace a healthier, safer and more prosperous clean energy future.

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