



Good evening, my name is Bill Braham.

I am testifying in support of the RGGI initiative as a private citizen. I am the founding director of a program in Environmental Building Design at the University of Pennsylvania, where I teach young architects about building a low-carbon future. We are constantly rebuilding our buildings, so there are many job opportunities in the transition to renewable resources.

However I am really testifying as lifelong Pennsylvanian. I have lived in Philadelphia for many years, but I grew up outside Pittsburgh, along the Ohio, in the decade before the Clean Air act was passed. I am in support of RGGI on two counts, local and global pollution.

When I was in high school, we used to park at night to watch the steel mills pour molten slag into the river from long lines of train cars. It was spectacular, but it was killing the river and was part of the larger pattern of unconstrained pollution that obscured the sun and darkened the buildings of the city. You could feel and see the health effects, but there were no incentives for companies to spend money to reduce pollutants. It took the collective political will to pass the clean air act, and the effect was evident with the decade. Reducing carbon emissions from Pennsylvania's power plants will have an immediate local effect in local and regional pollution.

On the global pollution front, we can all now hear the drumbeat of global climate change in the increased pace and intensity of storms, fires, and species loss that other speakers have itemized. It will take many initiatives to meet the challenge of reducing emissions, but RGGI represents an important step that Pennsylvania can take. The cap and trade approach to emissions reduction works best at larger scale, so I am very much in favor of joining our sister states in this effort.