



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2020 3:36 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)

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.



Re: eComment System

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

Commenter Information:

Marc Karasek
(karas00m@gmail.com)
29 Letitia Ln
Media, PA 19063 US

Comments entered:

This message contains comments regarding Proposed Rulemaking "CO2 Budget Trading Program." These written comments are a followup to testimony provided at the public hearing on Monday December 14, 2020. I am providing these comments as a private citizen.

To Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection,

I am concerned about climate change. I am frustrated by the Federal and PA governments' inaction on climate change. I am personally stressed by this alarming future for both my own family and our entire civilization. I therefore support Proposed Rulemaking "CO2 Budget Trading Program." I want to see PA join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Despite my concern, I am excited about green energy. Every day, I seek out and read news articles about the impressive growth of the solar, onshore wind, offshore wind, electric vehicle, and energy storage industries. It is clear that there is money to be made in these industries.

I take every opportunity within my means to reduce my carbon footprint. I hired a contractor to insulate my house and purchased a more-efficient heating system. I live within 10 miles of my workplace for a reduced commute. And, although it was expensive, I purchased rooftop solar panels. In addition to providing me and my neighbors with clean energy, my solar panels earn

me money in the long term and reduce peak load for the power grid.

Despite all these advantages, it was a difficult process to install solar panels on my southeast PA home. I first applied to install them in 2016, but my proposal was rejected by PECO. I was told it would cost \$400,000 to upgrade the power lines behind my home. After confronting PECO and paying them to perform a study, the price tag was reduced to \$25,000 for a capacitor upgrade to PECO's substation. I filed a formal complaint, and the data from my complaint plus some forced upgrades due to a 2018 storm, PECO finally approved my solar array.

Still, my neighbors cannot make the same choice to put clean energy into the grid, because PECO continues to not invest the \$400,000 to upgrade the power lines behind my house. This is a typical situation for PECO, a company whose revenue for years went to helping Exelon acquire other energy companies rather than upgrading its own infrastructure. Private residents will literally advance the capital to clean up PECO's power sourcing, but PECO is still not encouraging this because they do not have enough market pressure to invest in their own infrastructure. Joining the RGGI would further incentivize PECO to take advantage of the massive rooftop solar opportunity.

Another huge opportunity in the northeast US is offshore wind power. This industry is rapidly emerging. If we want our electric companies to be major stakeholders, PA should give them the additional push that their neighbors in NJ, NY, MD, and DE are getting from their states' greenhouse gas initiatives.

I have a 4-year-old son who will be going to Media's public schools. I do not want him to spend his 13 years around school buses breathing diesel exhaust. Battery electric buses are in production now, and they can save school districts money through low operating costs, but they come with a high upfront price tag. Reinvestment from taxing our greenhouse gas emitters could provide school districts with this money-saving and life-extending opportunity.

I am a mechanical engineer in the transportation industry. My job is not green. I would work in the green energy industry if more jobs were available in this area. If PA wants to invest in a stable economic outlook with high-paying jobs like this in our state, we need to stop dragging our feet and commit to a green energy plan.

I want to see a clean energy future, and I want to see it here in PA. I have put my personal time, money, and thought into that future, so I want to see the PA government do the same. To reiterate, I am concerned about climate change and I support the subject proposal to join the RGGI.

Thank you DEP for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Marc Karasek

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