



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 12:18 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-jflanaga@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:

Mark Weakland  
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 Hollsopple, PA 15935 US

Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I'm writing to urge the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to adopt the proposed CO2 Budget Trading Program, which would enable Pennsylvania to work with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states to cut carbon pollution without delay.

The world is in the midst of a growing climate crisis. All ten of the warmest years on record occurred between 2005 and 2020. All over the world, weather is growing more extreme. Here in Pennsylvania, we are seeing trees dies, tick populations expand, and increased precipitation that leads to crop failures, just to name a few climate change related events. Without swift action, the crisis will certainly become a catastrophe of mass migration, job losses, increased food insecurity, political instability, and great human and animal suffering. No one knows where the tipping point is. But if we act now, we may be able to avoid the worst outcomes.

The CO2 Budget Trading Program will create a cap on carbon emissions with each ton available under the cap represented by an emissions allowance. Electric generators larger than 25 megawatts will need to obtain allowances equal to the pollution they emit, most of which will be purchased through an auction with proceeds deposited in Pennsylvania's Clean Air Fund.

Money from the Clean Air Fund can then be invested in projects that will help fight climate change, promote clean energy and energy efficiency, and otherwise reduce air pollution. Other positive outcomes include more jobs and increased money flow to state coffers. Most importantly, reducing CO2 emissions is the morally right thing to do for when we protect the Earth from harm, we protect children, our poorest citizens, and the animals that inhabit the Earth with us, and we honor all creation, not just our own backyards.

The framers of our state's Constitution had the foresight to include an environmental rights amendment which makes it clear we have a responsibility to protect our environment not only to ourselves but also for generations yet to come. It is vital that we do our part and cut carbon pollution.

Sincerely,

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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