



**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-jflanagan@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:

Preston Shimer  
 (pwshimer@gmail.com)  
 217 Thornberry Cir  
 Mt Lebanon, PA 15234 US

Comments entered:

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

I am a resident of a suburb of Pittsburgh, living in a region which has been told that we would receive tremendous economic benefit from the natural gas industry. Except for the brief boost of out of state workers causing the development of short term living accommodations such as Suite Hotels, that bubble came and went and left behind great destruction to our countryside, much poorer air quality, spoiled water supplies and a host of well documented other results shale gas development. All this at great cost to those of us who live here and a great cost for the tax subsidies the industry received. What keeps our region growing has nothing to do with shale gas. It is our educational institutions, our medial center and its research program, it is small business innovation that is creating jobs. None of this growth spoils the air, pollutes the water and degrades our lives. We need to be fostering new technology, green energy and manufacturing products of the future. RGGI is just the program to help us toward that goal. It is working very well in the Northeast and we should be on board with it as well.

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 us to work together with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states to cut our carbon pollution without delay.

We are in the midst of a growing climate crisis with all ten of the warmest years on record occurring since 2005, and with 2020 on course to be the second-hottest year ever. In Pennsylvania, excess heat is already impacting our health, the environment, and our economy. We cannot afford to ignore the crisis any longer. We must act now.

This rule 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. In doing so, this will bring about a net increase of 27,000 jobs to Pennsylvania and increase our gross state product by nearly \$2 billion. This is the sort of action we need.

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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