



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 4:32 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)

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The enclosed comment was received as part of the following testimony:

Testimony name: Public Hearing 5 (1pm) - #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:

Charles Lanier
 Hunting Park Community Revitalization Corp. (charles.lanier@huntingparknac.org)
 3760 N. Delhi St
 Philadelphia, PA 19140 US

Comments entered:

Hunting Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee, the parent organization of the Hunting Park Community Revitalization Corporation is a non-profit community-based organization. The organization was formed in 1976 by grass roots residents in response to the housing crisis in the neighborhood at that time. HPNAC/CRC,), is a grassroots organization with a proud history of community organizing and activism on energy, housing, public safety, youth, and other priorities in our North Philadelphia community. Hunting Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee (HPNAC) mission is to build a sustainable, equitable and diverse community in the Hunting Park section of North Philadelphia. Our vision is to improve quality of life for all residents . We have intimate knowledge of the energy and housing problems facing our community and what it takes to solve them, having worked as a Neighborhood Energy Center for 15 years.

In 2017, HPNAC/CRC completed a housing makeover energy conservation project, in conjunction with the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), through the Energy Fit Philly Program. The funding provided ten (10) homeowners, in Hunting Park, with new white roofing systems, insulation, new

windows, heaters, hot water tanks, caulking/sealing baseboards, and other energy efficient items to help reduce energy costs. This project also combats gentrification by stabilizing low-income homeowners; enabling them to improve their homes, reduce energy and other operating expenses, and improve the asset value of their home.

Hunting Park, like much of North Philadelphia, struggles with an interrelated set of socio-economic and environmental justice issues: high poverty, high unemployment, substandard housing, epidemic levels of asthma and other related respiratory illness, low educational attainment, high energy burden, and high crime. RGGI can set in motion systemic changes and structural improvements in our quality of life.

By putting a price on carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the electricity generation sector, RGGI will produce approximately \$350,000,000 a year, allowing for a substantial and sustainable investment in energy efficiency, affordable solar, improved public transportation, clean energy jobs and workforce development for communities like ours.

It is clear from the recent Acadia report that RGGI has the potential to be extremely beneficial to all Pennsylvanians. RGGI can:

- Lower greenhouse gas emissions: Significantly and steadily, reducing air pollution statewide and helping to mitigate climate change.
- Create jobs: The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) estimates that 27,000 net new jobs will be created statewide by 2030. Job creation is critical as unemployment now stands above 20% in our community.
- Grow the economy statewide: Gross state product will increase by at least \$1.9 Billion by 2030. Including economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, which is urgent.
- Improve public health: RGGI will save at least 639 lives statewide and provide \$6.3 billion in improvements to the health of Pennsylvanians by 2030, by reducing the severity of asthma, other respiratory disease, heart disease and many other health problems caused and exacerbated by air pollution and climate change.
- Lower energy costs: Save the average Pennsylvanian money through investment in energy efficiency. PA can reduce the energy burden on low and low moderate-income households by improving the energy efficiency of homes statewide.

Because low-income Philadelphians live in homes in the worst condition, with the oldest most inefficient heating systems and appliances, their energy burden is disproportionately high. While Hunting Park NAC/CRC provides bill payment assistance to more than 1,000 residents each year, our real focus is on energy efficiency, weatherization, and affordable renewable energy. 2021 is a critical year, during which Pennsylvania can finally accelerate efforts to decarbonize its electricity generation, transportation and building sectors. Hunting Park NAC, who have been in the trenches for years, fully supports the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. We look forward to working closely with DEP to insure that low income minority communities like ours finally have the opportunity to clean our air, improve our environment and train our residents and families with the ability to sustain clean energy jobs.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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