



Stephen Hoffman

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

Cherly Wanko
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 994 Stargazers Rd
 Coatesville, PA 19320 US

Comments entered:

My name is Cheryl Wanko, from Coatesville PA. I'd like to congratulate the Environmental Quality Board for making it through nearly 50 speakers!

While I am here today to testify to my support for RGGI, I first want to note what urged me to take this step, and that is the utter disregard for the climate crisis shown by many of our elected officials. As one recent example, I was disgusted by the "public hearing" on Representative Struzzi's HB2025, run by Rep. Metcalfe, chair of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee on February 5 of this year: only anti-RGGI guests were allowed to present testimony. This legislation would have prevented you, the DEP, from performing your job of protecting PA citizens from the effects of the climate crisis.

In his veto of HB2025, Gov. Wolf reminds us that our state legislature has done nothing to address climate change and has, further, only created obstacles to fighting this existential

threat. And while maintaining the status quo may be fine for the legislators who receive fossil fuel contributions, it is not fine for me and for some of the people I regularly work with: Pennsylvania college students. This is why I am turning to you.

I asked my students about whether PA should implement climate initiatives like RGGI, and, with their permission, here's what they said:

Kevin Thomas from UD states:

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a great plan that will allow us to reduce carbon emissions and create funding for renewable energy. I'm proud to know that my state will be fighting climate change and I hope that other states will do the same.

Madison Rettenmeier from WC spoke to me about how she sees so much talk but no action. She says:

We bash the uneducated for not respecting nature yet fail to educate them. We hold our heads high, only looking up to create new methods of sustainability instead of looking below us to fix the problems we have already created.

Concrete large-scale projects like RGGI will help us deal with the problems we have already created and avoid the ones yet to come.

Finally, Olivia Carzo from Thornbury Township states:

I think that including Pennsylvania in RGGI would be a good first step at making our state more eco-friendly. As a former mining and heavy industry state, Pennsylvania has had a lot of negative impacts on the Earth in terms of its carbon footprint. While we are slowly working to fix that, we also have to be cautious of jobs that could be uprooted. This program allows us to lower our carbon emissions while still providing our communities with jobs--GREEN JOBS! RGGI would help us work towards our state's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050, maybe even more rapidly. This initiative would also help our economy boom by increasing state revenue; help families save money on their electric bills; and help limit people's susceptibility to asthma and other respiratory illnesses. I truly believe that this Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will help Pennsylvania to continue to move in the right direction, while still providing our families with good, well-paying jobs.

So I'm asking you not only to listen to middle-aged me and the others testifying, but also to listen to the millions of young people in our state. I'll close with more of Olivia's words:

As a young person here in our beautiful, nature-filled state of Pennsylvania, I want to see change. I want to grow up not in fear that my future self and my future kids may never see the Earth as I see it now, or that they may develop health problems as a result of us not acting soon enough. I want to create a better world for not only myself but for the people, animals, and plants that live around me.

THESE are the voices our state legislators should be listening to in hearings such as the one for HB2025. I hope YOU listen to Kevin, Madison, and Olivia's words. Thank you for letting me share them.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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