



## Stephen Hoffman

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**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 6 (6pm) - #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:

Cynthia Kirsch  
 (ckirsch1035@gmail.com)  
 1035 Savannah Ave  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15221 US

Comments entered:

Hello, my name is Cynthia Kirsch and I live in Pittsburgh, PA. I submit this statement as a private citizen.

In the past, when sharing my concern about climate change, I would always start out saying that I was not likely to be around for the worst effects of climate change, but my children and future grandchildren will be. I no longer make that statement. We are already witnessing horrific and devastating effects of climate change. And, if we don't take bold action, it will only get worse. It is also clear that while we are all affected by climate change, some are affected more severely, namely the poor and disenfranchised of our society. As the saying goes, we may all be in the same storm, but some are on yachts while others are on leaky life boats.

As a licensed clinical psychologist for over 30 years, I am aware that climate change will take a toll on mental health. The psychosocial impacts of climate change include large-scale social and

community effects of issues such as heat-related violence, conflicts over resources, migrations and dislocations, post-disaster adjustment and PTSD, and chronic environmental stress. Indirect effects will include anxiety, worry, depression, grief, numbness, and various other psychological trauma. The overall health of a society is affected by the mental health of its members. Again, these negative psychosocial effects will fall most heavily on those of lower SES and on those with pre-existing mental health conditions.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) will limit the amount of CO2 pollution that can be emitted, thus reducing greenhouse gases – a major factor in climate change. This policy also aims to generate 330 million dollars that can be invested into communities most affected by climate change.

RGGI is effective. Participating states have reduced their carbon emissions while still experiencing economic growth. A 2015 peer reviewed study found that RGGI had contributed to the decline of emissions significantly in the states that already were on board. And, a Clean Air Task Force study found that RGGI states transition to cleaner energy is saving hundreds of lives, and preventing pollution related disorders such as asthma, and reducing medical impacts and expenses by billions of dollars. By participating in RGGI, it is estimated that Pennsylvania will reduce climate pollution from carbon emissions by 188 million tons by 2030. Emission of other harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter emissions will also drop significantly.

It is time for the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Thank you.

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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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