



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-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:

Erin Skiff
 (eskiff@pointpark.edu)
 935 Berkshire Ave
 Pittsburgh, PA 15226 US

Comments entered:

My name is Erin Skiff. I am testifying as a private citizen. I have been born and raised in Pittsburgh. I have quickly learned through living here that this city has the worst air quality in the US of any city east of California. I am a 22-year-old student at Point Park University in the Sports, Arts, and Entertainment Management Program. I spent a short amount of time in the Sustainability program at Chatham University before transferring. I have also traveled to Ecuador out of high school to study agricultural sustainability in particular. What I have learned from my studies is that livestock farming is the main concern for carbon emissions. However, the next most pressing issue is energy. I have always had huge care for environmental concerns. This happened very naturally once I informed myself through environmental readings, movies, and documentaries. Our world will not be able to take the exploitation that we have done to it for much longer. The other notion I informed myself about is overpopulation and the connection to resource exploitation. Not only are we exploiting resources but it is even

worsening due to the overpopulation of the human species. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative would be a smart investment for Pennsylvania and I am in strong support of it. In particular, the cap and trade program is very intelligent and allows for the reduction of pollution and CO2 while maintaining and creating jobs. RGGI holds polluters and fossil fuel companies accountable. I find this particularly appealing because the main issue for many people who want to mitigate climate change feel it is impossible! We can't stop coal from burning and sourcing energy for our homes and buildings on our own. We need fossil fuel companies in on it and hold themselves accountable. How else will we solve this crisis? There is obviously not federal help with these issues so we must act as smaller entities. Please consider the issues pertinent and quite frankly, being thrown in all of our faces. We see the wildfires in California. I also lived in Davis, CA during the massive Camp Fire in Paradise, CA. I actually was a biker in that town. I experienced 2 weeks straight of smoke so thick that I could not bike most days, I had to take Ubers and Lyft's to work. I had to wear a mask constantly outside, ironically similar to our current situation with COVID, though unrelated to the environment. It is related to human health, however. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is an incredibly important step for Pennsylvania that certainly needs to be implemented across the country, and across the world. I am hopeful that with the new president-elect we will rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. As of now, unfortunately, the current President has created a mockery of the US by eliminating all common sense environmental regulations. We need to take this step towards decreasing and eliminating carbon emissions. It is essential for the survival of our species. We need to protect our lives. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a step in that direction towards protecting and maintaining human lives and all life on this earth. We cannot pass up this opportunity to take action towards a livable future for all. We cannot undo the impacts of climate change thus far on the earth, humans, and all living species. However, we can ensure that we take the correct actions now and moving into the future. Once again, Pennsylvania does not have great air quality, Pittsburgh in particular. As mentioned earlier, Pittsburgh has the worst air quality of any city east of California. I did not volunteer for my home city to be in this dire state. I also did not make this climate change disaster happen. However, I am volunteering to speak up about it, take action, and change this world for the better today. I will leave you with this. I want to live in a world that is healthy and suitable for all life. I don't know what will be happening in the world when I am 80 years old. I just hope that the world's leaders and Pennsylvania's leaders, in particular, will make the right choices today so that I can live to be old and healthy and I can feel certain that my children and grandchildren will be able to survive on this planet. We, and you, do not want to be on the wrong side of history. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about this pertinent, essential, and increasingly important topic.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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