



Stephen Hoffman

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

Karen Poshefko
 (karp222@ptd.net)
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Comments entered:

My name is Karen S. Poshefko. I live in Emmaus and I am a life-long resident of the Lehigh Valley.

My sincere thanks to the DEP and the Environmental Quality Board for your dedication to protect public health and safety. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. I am testifying as an individual in support of the DEP's proposed RGGI regulations. There have been two constants in my life – a love of family and a deep appreciation for nature. Climate change threatens both. My husband and I have no children, but we worry – what does the future hold for our many nieces and nephews in a world plagued by wildfires, droughts, flooding and air pollution?

As for my love of nature, I inherited that from my family. I come from a long line of hunters, anglers and gardeners. But my parents taught me that appreciation is not enough – I have a

responsibility to protect and conserve the precious natural world that I love.

I have a varied background. I graduated from Cedar Crest College, with a double major in Business Administration and Sociology. I worked in administrative support with the fossil fuel industry, did non-profit fundraising, taught English as a second language to adults, and served as an activity coordinator with the elderly. As I look back over my career, I believe that RGGI would be a plus for every one of those populations. The elderly, the poor, families, kids, those working in the energy sector – all would benefit from cleaner air, good-paying jobs and lower energy costs.

Do you remember the first book that you read as a child? I do, and it was about dinosaurs. The only thing I like better than live animals is learning about the ones that have been dead for millions of years. Of course, the study of dinosaurs is the study of extinction, which is the study of climate change. Reading about our planet's extinction events is fascinating. Witnessing the deaths of whole ecosystems – in real time - is heartbreaking. Remember, past global extinctions were caused by natural events. This one is being caused by us.

How is climate change impacting me? Well, I've lived in the same house and tended the same garden for over thirty years. Daffodils blooming in January? Crazy, you say? Not anymore. I have experienced the negative emotional and financial impacts from a climate which is out of balance. I've lost stately trees to hurricanes, faced an increased risk of tick bites when working in my yard, witnessed unrepresented stormwater runoff on my property, and have lived through too many summer days when it is just too hot to go for a walk.

While I've been following the climate change issue for over 40 years, I am not a climatologist, nor an economist. So I respect the data-driven research of peer-reviewed climate scientists who urge us to act now. Likewise, I am encouraged by economists and business leaders who show us innovative pathways, like RGGI, to address our shared climate crisis.

Over the past decades, I've volunteered and supported various environmental conservation organizations. In the past few years, however, I have targeted my volunteerism to be directly involved with promoting innovative carbon pricing models, to mitigate climate change. As such, I have met with business and community leaders, as well as with elected officials at the local, state and federal level, to hear their views on this subject.

Punitive regulations are not the only way to protect our environment. RGGI has been a proven winner in other states. Let's get on board to lower greenhouse gas emissions, while we grow our economy, create jobs and protect public health. A clean environment and a productive economy are complementary.

As noted on the RGGI website, "climate change is the most critical environmental threat confronting the world." Despite this dire warning, I have hope for the future.

We Americans excel in coming together to innovate and solve problems. RGGI would provide just such an opportunity.

Members of the DEP and the Environmental Quality Board -- please approve the RGGI regulations as soon as possible. Thank you for your service to our communities.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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