



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-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 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:

Kevin Long
 (solar@turnerlong.com)
 201 Antler Drive
 Marysville, PA 17053 US

Comments entered:

I speak to you today as a small business owner, a father, and a person of faith My wife and I started her business, a dance studio, in 2004. We financed it ourselves, and since that time it has grown, provided jobs, and built a loyal customer base. Our success occurred due to the knowledge and effort of my wife and the staff she has brought on board over the years. The business stands on its merit.

By contrast, the natural gas industry is profiting from a resource that belongs to all of us. They are not paying to do so. The extraction and consumption of their product brings harm to others. To date, the cost of that damage has been paid by all Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania has the highest rate of combustion-related deaths in the country. That should be a source of shame for us, not a statistic we're looking to grow. The creation of jobs does not warrant this. Most businesses that provide jobs do not resell what belongs to everyone. Most businesses that provide jobs do not poison our water and air. Most business owners who provide jobs expect other business owners to succeed based on merit, not on free rides. It's time we ask the same of

the natural gas and related industries through participation in RGGI.

As a father, I'm concerned about the economy and environment my daughter and her generation are inheriting. Should the message we send them continue to be that short term financial gain for their parents and grandparents is more important than their own health, or investment in sustainable energy and transportation solutions?

During the past several years, our family has invested in an electric lawn mower, electric cars, and solar panels to power them. We have a sustainable provider for the electricity we do not produce on our own. The benefit has been less noise and cleaner air when we're around our mower and cars, and a realization of how noisy and smelly the burning of fossil fuels is. The benefit is similar to when I stopped eating fast food for lunch multiple times a week; your body just feels healthier as a result.

Our kids are already inheriting an environmental disaster and will have to contend with issues like rising sea levels, more natural disasters, food scarcity, humanitarian crises, and other issues intensified by carbon emissions. Participation in RGGI would offer them some aid in correcting our mistakes, such as investing in solar and wind power, sources of energy which do not have an associated body count.

Finally, as a person of faith, I believe we are to be stewards of God's creation, which is a gift we all share. Thus we are called to protect it and ensure it is not exploited in an unjust manner. The costs of climate change are borne by the marginalized and by future generations, and we should be working to reduce that impact. We are to pursue the greater good, not a short-sighted system that benefits the few at the cost of the many. RGGI is a step toward the greater good. Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this hearing.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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