

**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-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559)

CAUTION: **EXTERNAL SENDER** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



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:

Lindsay Blade
(lindsayblade2@gmail.com)
619 Sixth Ave
Croydon, PA 19021 US

Comments entered:

My name is Lindsay Blade. I am from Lower Bucks County, Pennsylvania and I work in Philadelphia. I work in the adult education non-profit sector as well as with children in environmental education. I am speaking as a teacher, hiker, nature lover and private citizen. I appreciate the opportunity to comment today.

I am providing testimony in strong support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). I am adamant on curbing our reliance on fossil fuels, improving air quality and halting climate change. Here in Pennsylvania we are seeing the impacts of global warming firsthand, including excessive rainfall and heatwaves, rising health concerns and negative effects on our farming system.

Today, I want to focus on how joining RGGI will improve human health and address environmental justice. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest greenhouse gas polluting state in the

nation. These emissions are taking a significant toll on our health and jeopardizing the future of young children. Air pollution disproportionately affects young children while in their developing state. This first became apparent to me growing up three miles from a chemical manufacturing plant that emitted large amounts of CO2 into the air and toxic waste into the Neshaminy Creek. I have witnessed my two brothers suffer greatly from asthma related issues into their adult lives.

Not only observing the medical hardships my siblings endured, but also seeing the financial burden my parents had to go through makes the decision of raising children in Pennsylvania's current climate very difficult for myself. The PA State Constitution states that clean air and pure water are rights for all its citizens. However, it seems impossible for many in my generation to believe that that right will be awarded to our children without immediate climate action. As a young woman considering starting a family, climate change and burning fossil fuels should not be at the top factor in my decision making.

Additionally, fossil fuel plants and other big polluters are often situated close to disadvantaged communities, especially those of color. These pollutants are linked to health problems including respiratory illness, heart attack, stroke, cancer and mental health problems result in straining medical costs to individuals and our state government. If Pennsylvania joins our neighboring states in RGGI, hundreds of premature deaths, as well as 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory related illnesses could be prevented. Our neighbors in participating RGGI states have seen a savings of \$5.7 billion in health benefits since the start of the program.

After seeing the economic and health benefits of other RGGI states, it is now time for Pennsylvania to join this bipartisan solution, by investing in sustainable jobs, ensuring clean air and water, and reducing greenhouse gasses. RGGI is vital to help lessen the effects on climate change and promote a healthy, livable environment for all Pennsylvanians and future generations. Thank you to the EQB for putting on these hearings and listening to our comments.

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

Jessica Shirley
Director, Office of Policy
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Office: 717-783-8727
Fax: 717-783-8926
ecomment@pa.gov