



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 7:23 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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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: CO2 Budget Trading Program (#7-559).

Commenter Information:

Lucille Garofalo
 (caraosf@yahoo.com)
 502 S. 6th Street
 Reading, PA 19602 US

Comments entered:

Hello!

I am writing to recommend that Pennsylvania join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI has a proven track record of success in reducing climate pollution. For more than twelve years, Republican and Democratic governors from most Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states have participated in RGGI. Over that time climate pollution in those states has dropped by 47%, outpacing the rest of the country by 90%, according to Sen. Katie Muth in her commentary in the December 17, 2020 "Reading Eagle."

Why is this important? The climate crisis is not a distant threat but happening now. The emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases have impacted our environment and our health. I support Governor Wolf's declaration that it is time to take concrete, economically sound and immediate steps to reduce emissions.

What are the benefits of participating in RGGi for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians? Carbon emissions will be reduced by 188 million tons by 2030. Emissions of other greenhouse gases and particulate matter will also significantly drop. Those most impacted by marginal air quality, such as children and at-risk seniors, will benefit. Premature deaths from respiratory illnesses will be prevented for some. It is estimated there would be 30,000 fewer hospital visits for respiratory illnesses, such as asthma, for children and adults. Having healthier adults can

result in over 83,000 avoided lost workdays due to health impacts.

Besides environmental and health benefits, there would be economic benefits as well. It is estimated that participation in RGGI from 2022 to 2030 would lead to an increase in Gross State Product of nearly \$2 billion and a net increase of over 27,000 jobs in our Commonwealth. Also, by 2050 there could be a cumulative increase in Disposable Personal Income of \$3.7 billion. It is noted that these estimates are at low end because they do not include investments of RGGI revenues in things like energy efficiency improvements for businesses and homeowners, economic support for communities that see changes resulting from changing electricity generation and usage, and clean energy sources.

Elected officials are sworn to the state constitution, which guarantees the "right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment." It is time to stop propping up polluting industries and protect our communities and the people who live in them from the deleterious effects of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,
Lucille Garofalo

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