



## Stephen Hoffman

**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:07 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; IRRRC; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; ntroutman@pasen.gov; timothy.collins@pasenate.com; gking@pahousegop.com  
**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:

Richard Kaplan  
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Comments entered:

Hello, thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak in support of the RGGI regulatory program being developed by DEP. My name is Richard Kaplan. Currently I am an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Arcadia University, noting that a large majority of my students are very worried about climate change and the inability of governments, both local and global, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Previously, I led Environmental Departments at several pharmaceutical companies. I support good regulatory programs designed to protect the public health and welfare.

To have Pennsylvania join RGGI is an important step in efforts to reduce climate change impacts, of which we are already seeing in PA. Many studies show that humans are the cause of the current, rapid change in the world's climate. These impacts will become more dire if we continue to blithely, even blindly, emit greenhouse gases at the current rate. Addressing this growing problem is by no means easy—it is fraught with economic and employment impacts. To ignore it only begs the question because the economic and employment

impacts of climate change would be worse, including increased heat-related mortality and morbidity and increased infectious diseases. Ignoring the problem does not make it go away but only pushes the worsening problem off on future generations.

Article 1 section 27 of the PA Constitution mandates that the Government of PA serve as environmental trustee for all the people of the Commonwealth because "the people have a right to clean air." The Constitution further states, "As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people." It is within the purview of the Executive Branch to assure that our Government is fulfilling this Constitutional mandate. Joining RGGI is an appropriate action because the proposed regulatory program addresses several matters germane to climate change: those responsible and reducing emissions. RGGI does not shut down fossil fuel sources but instead caps them, assuring emission reductions. The payment for these emissions rests solely on those producing these emissions. As in any product damage liability issue, the damages owed to the consumer are the responsibility of the producer. Analogously, the environmental damage due to greenhouse gas emissions must be paid for by those generating these emissions. Those damaged—the entire public—deserve to have that damage remediated. Imposing emission charges creates the funding for remediating the damage, as well as assuring reductions in future damage, by capping the emissions and reducing them over time. The reductions over time would also allow the producers to develop alternative energy resources.

In closing I support this regulatory program because it will address a growing and significant problem.

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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