



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

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IN RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING: CO2 BUDGET TRADING
PROGRAM

PUBLIC HEARING

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BEFORE: Jessica Shirley, Member
Jennifer Swan, Member
Darek Jagiela, Member
Laura Griffin, Member

HEARING: Tuesday, December 8, 2020
1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: WebEx video conference

Reporter: Kelly Gallick

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WITNESSES: Heather Hoff, Mark Bortman, Christine Knapp, Joel Hicks, Robert Routh, Donna Bullock, Jennifer Baka, Michael Kovach, David Heayn-Menendez, Walter Tsou, Dave DeMaria, Lindsey Walaski, Kate Monahan, Paul Metzloff, Anya Tewari, Riley Spahr, Brooke Petry, Morgan Folger, Pam Kosty, Meredith Hegg, Lucie Lebourgeois, Cathy Chamblee, Richard Tolin, Danette Richards, George Stern, Kenda Hammer, Howard Sherman, Naomi Miller, Kelly Flanigan, Laura Velez, Robert Ellis, Phyllis Terwilliger, Shelby Parks, Edith Ruiz, Greta Bunin, Patricia DeMarco, Lisa Richardson, and Raquel Janes

I N D E X

1		
2		
3	OPENING REMARKS	
4	By Ms. Shirley	6 - 11
5	TESTIMONY	
6	By Ms. Hoff	11 - 15
7	By Mr. Bortman	15 - 19
8	By Ms. Knapp	19 - 24
9	By Mr. Hicks	25 - 29
10	By Attorney Routh	29 - 33
11	By Representative Bullock	33 - 38
12	By Ms. Baka	38 - 42
13	By Mr. Kovach	43 - 46
14	By Mr. Heayn-Menedez	46 - 50
15	By Dr. Tsou	50 - 54
16	By Mr. DeMaria	54 - 58
17	By Ms. Walaski	59 - 62
18	By Ms. Monahan	62 - 65
19	By Mr. Metzloff	66 - 69
20	By Ms. Tewari	70 - 73
21	By Mr. Sphar	73 - 76
22	By Ms. Petry	76 - 79
23	By Ms. Folger	79 - 83
24	By Ms. Kosty	83 - 87
25	By Ms. Hegg	87 - 88

I N D E X (cont'd)

1		
2		
3	TESTIMONY (Continued)	
4	By Ms. LeBourgeois	89 - 91
5	By Dr. Chamblee	91 - 94
6	By Mr. Tolin	94 - 97
7	By Ms. Richards	97 - 101
8	By Mr. Stern	101 - 104
9	By Ms. Hammer	104 - 108
10	By Mr. Sherman	108 - 111
11	By Ms. Miller	112 - 113
12	By Ms. Flanigan	114 - 116
13	By Ms. Velez	117 - 119
14	By Mr. Ellis	120 - 122
15	By Ms. Terwillinger	122 - 125
16	By Ms. Parks	125 - 128
17	By Ms. Ruiz	128 - 131
18	By Ms. Bunin	131 - 134
19	By Ms. DeMarco	134 - 138
20	By Ms. Richardson	139 - 143
21	By Ms. Janes	144 - 147
22	CERTIFICATE	148
23		
24		
25		

E X H I B I T S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u> <u>Offered</u>
---------------	--------------------	-------------------------------

NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
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MS. SHIRLEY: Good afternoon everyone.

I would like to welcome you to the Environmental Quality Board's public hearing on the proposed rulemaking for the Pennsylvania CO2 Budget Trading Program.

My name is Jessica Shirley, and I am the policy director for the Department of Environmental Protection. I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the Environmental Quality Board. Assisting me today is Darek Jagiela, our host, and Jennifer Swan, who most of you have already corresponded with to register for this hearing, and Laura Griffin, who is DEP's regulatory coordinator.

I officially call this hearing to order at 1:01 p.m. This public hearing will be recorded in its entirety. Additionally, a stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

The purpose of this hearing is to formally accept testimony on the proposed rulemaking. This proposed rulemaking was adopted by the EQB at its meeting on September 15th, 2020. It proposes to establish a program to limit carbon

1 dioxide, or CO₂, emissions from fossil fuel-fired
2 power plants located in Pennsylvania with an
3 electricity generation capacity equal to or greater
4 than 25 megawatts. The purpose of this proposed
5 rulemaking is to reduce CO₂ emissions, which is a
6 greenhouse gas and a major contributor to climate
7 change impacts, in a manner that protects public
8 health, welfare, and the environment.

9 Under the authority of Pennsylvania's
10 Air Pollution Control Act, the proposed rulemaking
11 would establish Pennsylvania's participation in the
12 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, a
13 regional CO₂ budget trading program. In addition to
14 reducing CO₂ emissions, Pennsylvania will also see a
15 decrease in harmful NO_x, SO₂, and particulate matter
16 emissions as well as ground-level ozone pollution.
17 Human exposure to these air pollutants contributes
18 to respiratory and cardiovascular health problems,
19 including asthma, bronchitis, heart attacks, and
20 strokes. By participating in RGGI, DEP estimates
21 that Pennsylvania will see CO₂ emissions reductions
22 around 188 million tons by 2030.

23 This concludes the summary of the
24 rulemaking. If you would like to access a more
25 detailed explanation of regulatory amendments

1 included in this rulemaking, you can visit eComment
2 on DEP's webpage, and select regulations.

3 In order to give everyone an equal
4 opportunity to comment on this proposal, I would
5 like to establish the following ground rules. Jen
6 is going to provide some of this information in the
7 Q&A or chat box, so you don't need to write
8 everything down. I will call upon the first witness
9 - or excuse me, I will call upon the witnesses who
10 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
11 signed up were assigned a number indicating the
12 order in which witnesses will be called to speak.
13 Only those who signed up by contacting Jennifer
14 Swan, as indicated on the EQB webpage, will be
15 called upon to - to provide testimony.

16 Testimony is limited to five minutes
17 for each witness, and I will have a timer on the
18 screen. Please note that written and spoken
19 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
20 run out of time for your spoken testimony, we will
21 read the rest of your comments from your written
22 testimony. As advised in registration
23 correspondence, please provide a copy of your
24 written testimony to regcomments@pa.gov. Your email
25 must note that you are submitting testimony for the

1 proposed rulemaking CO2 budget trading program,
2 along with the following information, your first and
3 last name, mailing address, email address, and if
4 you are commenting on behalf of an organization.

5 Testimony is not required to be five
6 minutes long. If others who provide testimony
7 before you are making similar statements to yours,
8 you are free to shorten or summarize your verbal
9 testimony at this time and still provide your
10 written testimony by email. This will allow us to
11 hear from more commenters at this hearing. Through
12 the sign-up process, prospective commenters were
13 requested to designate one witness to present
14 testimony on behalf of an organization.

15 Please state your name, address, city
16 and state are sufficient, and affiliation, if you
17 have one, for the record prior to presenting your
18 testimony. The EQB would appreciate your help by
19 spelling out your name and terms that may not
20 generally be familiar so that the transcript can be
21 as accurate as possible. Because the purpose of
22 this hearing is to receive comments on the proposal,
23 EQB members or DEP staff cannot address questions
24 about the proposed rulemaking during the duration of
25 the hearing.

1 In addition to, or in place of, verbal
2 testimony presented at today's hearing, interested
3 persons may also submit written comments on this
4 proposal. Again, written and verbal comments hold
5 the same weight when considered in the finalization
6 of this proposed rulemaking. All testimony and
7 written comments provided become part of the
8 official public record.

9 All public comments must be received
10 by the EQB on or before January 14th, 2021. There
11 are a few different ways to submit written comments,
12 which is separate from this testimony. Comments may
13 be submitted online through eComment, accessible
14 from DEP's website. You just click the eComment
15 icon near the top of DEP's webpage, which is
16 www.dep.pa.gov. Or comments may be submitted by
17 email at regcomments@pa.gov.

18 All comments will be entered into
19 eComment and are accessible to the public. A
20 subject heading of the proposed rulemaking and a
21 return name and address must be included in each
22 email. Comments may also be sent through the US
23 Postal Mail, addressed to the Environmental Quality
24 Board, P.O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477.
25 And again, Jen is putting all of this into the Q&A

1 to the right of your screen.

2 All testimony received at this hearing
3 as well as written comments received by January
4 14th, 2021 will be considered by the EQB and will be
5 considered by the EQB and will be included in a
6 comment and response document, which will be
7 prepared by DEP and reviewed by the EQB prior to the
8 Board taking its final action on this regulation.
9 And that concludes the rules and information. And I
10 will share my screen and call the first testifier.

11 One second. Okay. Hopefully that
12 doesn't look crazy. Can everybody - can you see the
13 timer and everything?

14 MR. JAGIELA: Yes.

15 MS. SHIRLEY: Okay.

16 You guys can see ads for the Christmas
17 shopping.

18 Right? Okay.

19 So Number One, up first, we have
20 Heather Hoff.

21 Do we have Heather on the line?

22 MS. HOFF: Hi. Yes, I'm here.

23 I'm Heather Hoff. I'm representing
24 myself and also my nonprofit with the mission of
25 creating a global community of support for clean

1 energy. It's called Mothers for Nuclear. I care
2 about addressing climate change, air pollution, and
3 impacts on human health.

4 And that's a large part of the reason
5 I'm an advocate for nuclear energy. It's our single
6 largest source of clean energy. Those who have been
7 successful at decarbonizing their electric grids,
8 like France, Sweden, and Ontario, Canada, have done
9 so primarily by using a large mix of nuclear plus
10 hydro.

11 In the US, nuclear is currently 20
12 percent of our electricity supply and almost 60
13 percent of our clean energy electricity. But
14 existing nuclear plants like Three Mile Island are
15 closing due to market pressures, primarily from
16 heavily subsidized fossil fuels. We will never slow
17 down, let alone stop our usage of fossil fuels until
18 it becomes more expensive than other options. RGGI
19 will help accomplish that by regulating the use of
20 carbon offsets.

21 Pittsburgh is in the lowest two
22 percent of the country in terms of air quality, and
23 many residents have taken it upon themselves to help
24 develop air quality programs or contribute to a
25 larger system of monitoring. Although, not all this

1 pollution comes from electricity generation, there
2 would be a huge positive impact from decreasing our
3 reliance on fossil fuels.

4 I live in San Luis Obispo, California,
5 and in my life, I have largely avoided breathing
6 polluted air. However, this summer, we had massive
7 fires and some of the worst air quality in the
8 world. During this time, I finally understood what
9 it felt like to be afraid to exercise, play, or even
10 walk outside. I have friends and family in
11 Pittsburgh that deal with this issue on a daily
12 basis. They wear masks to practice outside yoga and
13 it's not due to COVID. They keep their kids inside
14 when the numbers are too high for comfort. The
15 residents of Pennsylvania deserve better, not only
16 due to health risks from breathing.

17 If we lower our reliance on fossil
18 fuels, we would have less pipelines and refineries,
19 which leak and explode. We would not have to
20 transport train car after train car load of coal.
21 We would have less water contamination from fracking
22 waste. All these processes have impacts on the
23 environment and, therefore, our health.

24 Regarding jobs, I can testify to the
25 fact that nuclear jobs are the best jobs. Nuclear

1 plants employ thousands of people with lasting,
2 high-paying, and stimulating careers. Nuclear is a
3 true investment in human capital. It takes far less
4 people to run a fossil plant, where most of the cost
5 of electricity is the fuel itself. I'd rather pay
6 for people. Also, small businesses and communities
7 benefit much more from having a local nuclear plant
8 than fossil.

9 Pennsylvania is the country's third
10 biggest generator of electricity and is the big
11 supplier of energy to the mid-Atlantic region. This
12 is low-hanging fruit in terms of emissions. If we
13 create a market program in Pennsylvania that rewards
14 clean energy, including nuclear, we can preserve
15 those jobs and that clean electricity rather than
16 simply shifting generation to a nearby state.

17 All this being said, charging more for
18 fossil fuels doesn't actually reduce greenhouse gas
19 emissions. RGGI is simply a first step, and there's
20 more work to do. We need to stop using coal and
21 natural gas, and to do that, we need more clean
22 energy. And a good step toward getting more clean
23 energy is to stop digging holes and to preserve the
24 clean energy we already have.

25 As I mentioned earlier, nuclear plants

1 are closing due to market pressure from cheap fossil
2 fuels but also due to other sources of clean energy,
3 which are currently only five percent of the State's
4 generation. We need to treat all clean energy
5 sources equally and concurrently hold all dirty
6 energy sources financially responsible for their
7 total impact on human health and the environment,
8 not solely the cost of their fuels. RGGI is an
9 important step toward this goal.

10 I appreciate the opportunity to
11 participate in this important decision-making for
12 the residents of Pennsylvania and, actually, the
13 world. Climate change doesn't follow our manmade
14 borders, and emissions anywhere affect peoples'
15 health everywhere. Thank you.

16 MS. SHIRLEY: Okay. Thank you,
17 Heather. Next up, we have Mark Bortman.

18 Do we have Mark on the line?

19 MR. BORTMAN: Yes, I'm here. Can you
20 hear me?

21 MS. SHIRELY: Yes, we can. Go ahead,
22 Mark.

23 MR. BORTMAN: Thank you.

24 My name is Mark Bortman. My wife, two
25 children, and I live at 1655 Fairfield Road,

1 Yardley, Pennsylvania, 19062. I'm testifying today
2 to express our support for the proposal for
3 Pennsylvania to take part in the Regional Greenhouse
4 Gas Initiative, RGGI, that will help cut climate
5 change pollution from electric power plants.

6 As a boy growing up during the oil
7 shocks of the 1970s, I came to appreciate the
8 economic benefits of energy efficiency. A
9 programmable thermostat, solar water heater, and
10 well-insulated home were worthwhile investments. I
11 could never understand how others could waste their
12 money by wasting energy. This was before the
13 dangers of climate change even were widely known.
14 It was clear from just an economic standpoint that
15 saving energy was a smart investment.

16 Now, more than 40 years later, those
17 lessons are even more important. As we have seen
18 the climate change and destructive technologies of
19 fracking and mountaintop coal accelerates
20 environmental degradation, the rapid implementation
21 of commonsense measures is now more important than
22 ever.

23 With that said, I'm here to make the
24 case that joining RGGI makes sense economically as
25 well as environmentally. I'm sure other speakers at

1 this hearing will decry the cost of a Regional
2 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, saying it's too expensive
3 and will place unneeded burdens on the citizens and
4 businesses of Pennsylvania. I would like to point
5 out two great fallacies of that argument.

6 First, although there are costs
7 associated with by RGGI, the far greater costs come
8 from continuing with the status quo. The damage
9 done by heat waves, intensified storms, increased
10 allergies, disruptive insects, asthma and other
11 respiratory ailments and other effects of continued
12 use of high polluting forms of energy is estimated
13 to be much higher than the full costs, switching to
14 100 percent non-polluted renewable energy. So the
15 real cost is - the real cost is an innocuous risk.
16 Unfortunately, those most affected and at risk to
17 this damage are the ones with the least political
18 power to be able to institute meaningful changes.

19 My second rebuttal to the argument is
20 in regards to the rate returns of investments we
21 will see from the money that goes to the State
22 through the RGGI program. These monies will be
23 invested in jobs and industries within our State and
24 will lead to economic growth and savings for the
25 people and companies in Pennsylvania. It is not

1 often in life that you can find a win-win solution.
2 With renewable energy, however, you get not just a
3 win-win, you get a win-win-win. Good, high-paying,
4 steady, not able to be outsourced jobs are created
5 by installing renewable energy in the State. Last
6 year, the latest year data available, the renewable
7 energy and energy efficiency industry employed
8 almost 100,000 people in Pennsylvania. These are
9 high-paying, rewarding jobs. I know. I have one of
10 them, installing solar panels. This industry will
11 only continue to grow.

12 The second win is that our customers
13 save money. By investing in renewable energy and
14 energy efficiency, people are able to lower their
15 energy costs. That means that households and
16 businesses can free up money in their budgets for
17 other important expenses.

18 The third win is the environmental
19 benefits that are readily obvious. Renewable energy
20 is everything that fossil fuels are not, no smog and
21 other pollution that hurts our lungs, no mining that
22 ruins our wilderness areas, no fracking poisoning
23 our groundwater, and no carbon emissions. You know
24 what it's called when there's a solar energy?
25 Fuddyduty. That's an old saying, but will forever

1 be true.

2 Now, however, we are already seeing
3 the effects of climate change. Storms are becoming
4 stronger and more numerous. Heat waves, droughts,
5 wildfires, allergies, hurricanes, insect
6 infestations, and more are continuing to gain in
7 intensity and frequency. RGGI has already delivered
8 significant benefits to the states where it already
9 operates, job creation, consumer energy savings,
10 cleaner air, better health, and more. We owe the
11 people of Pennsylvania the same opportunities.

12 The renewable energy train has left
13 the station. Please be clearing obstacles out of
14 its path so it can pick up speed rather than trying
15 to create barriers as we rush to a cleaner tomorrow.
16 I appreciate the opportunity to be able to provide
17 my opinion on this matter. Thank you very much.

18 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Mark.

19 Next up, we have Number Three,
20 Christine Knapp.

21 MS. KNAPP: Hello. Can you hear me?

22 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you.

23 MS. KNAPP: All right. Thank you.

24 My name is Christine Knapp. I'm the
25 director of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability,

1 providing testimony on behalf of Mayor Jim Kenney.
2 Thank you for the opportunity to provide this
3 testimony on the proposed rulemaking for CO2 budget
4 trading program.

5 As the director of the Office of
6 Sustainability, we're responsible for implementing
7 Green Works, the City's sustainability framework.
8 Green Works envisions a sustainable city for all and
9 incorporates issues such as food and drinking water,
10 air quality, energy, climate change, natural
11 resources, transportation, waste, and sustainable
12 stewardship and economic opportunity. We believe
13 sustainability is a key part of ensuring that every
14 resident is healthy, lives in a quality
15 neighborhood, and has the opportunity to prosper.

16 Mayor Kennedy came into office with a
17 goal to reduce City-wide carbon emissions 80 percent
18 by 2050, from a 2006 baseline. After the Trump
19 Administration announced their intention to withdraw
20 from the Paris Climate Agreement, Mayor Kenney
21 further committed Philadelphia to meeting the goals
22 of that agreement and moving to 100 percent clean
23 energy.

24 In Philadelphia, we are already seeing
25 the negative impacts of climate change, from

1 scorching summers like this past one with the second
2 hottest July on record to more frequent and more
3 severe storms like Tropical Storm/Hurricane Isaias,
4 which devastated neighborhoods in Southwest
5 Philadelphia. We know that the hotter and wetter
6 climate we are projected to experience could
7 multiply our existing risks such as poverty and poor
8 health outcomes.

9 However, not all Philadelphians will
10 experience these impacts equally, and lower income
11 communities and communities of color are much more
12 likely to be harmed by the change in climate. This
13 pattern of unequal exposure to risk tells us that
14 climate change is not only a public health issue,
15 but also an issue of racial and social inequity.

16 However, if we are proactive in
17 addressing climate change, we have the chance to
18 multiply opportunities by creating new jobs and
19 economic opportunities and creating healthier
20 neighborhoods. To do so we must add more tools to
21 our tool belt to help us move urgently in cutting
22 emissions.

23 The Office of Sustainability measures
24 and tracks Philadelphia's carbon footprint.
25 According to our most recent inventory,

1 Philadelphia's emissions come from three major
2 sources, our buildings and industry, transportation,
3 and waste. Waste accounts for just three percent of
4 greenhouse gas emissions. We have disposed close to
5 1.5 million tons of waste per year and were sent to
6 landfills and incinerators and recycling facilities.
7 Processing this waste is energy-intensive and
8 releases greenhouse gas emissions.

9 Transportation is the second largest
10 source at 25 percent. Philadelphia's transportation
11 emissions are low compared to other major cities,
12 thanks to our walkability and public transit
13 infrastructure. Buildings and industry account for
14 72 percent of our emissions and most of those
15 emissions are attributable to electricity
16 consumption. These emissions are as high as they
17 are because in Pennsylvania and throughout the PGM
18 grid, electric power is produced mostly by burning
19 fossil fuels. The problem is compounded by the fact
20 that as an older city much of our building stock is
21 aging and needs investment to become more efficient
22 and resilient.

23 We set forth a variety of programs in
24 Philadelphia to reduce emissions from these sectors.
25 For example, our Zero Waste and Litter Plan, our

1 transportation bus route transit on Roosevelt
2 Boulevard, and reducing emissions from buildings.

3 For example, we've invested in our own
4 downtown office buildings to make them more energy-
5 efficient. And we also manage the City's energy
6 benchmarking program and recently passed legislation
7 requiring large non-residential buildings to either
8 keep a high-performance building standard or perform
9 a tune-up on their building every five years. We've
10 also created commercial properties with clean energy
11 programs and entered into the Solar Power Purchase
12 Agreement for a 70-megawatt solar facility that will
13 provide us with 22 percent of our municipal energy.

14 And yet despite all of this, we cannot
15 meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement
16 without more action at the state and federal
17 government. We cannot achieve an 80 percent
18 reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 without a
19 carbon-free electricity grid. But even if every
20 dollar is spent on electricity in Philadelphia went
21 to clean energy generation, our regional electricity
22 supply would still not be carbon-free.

23 That's why we hope, beyond the City
24 limits, to advocate for policies at the
25 state/federal levels that influence our transition

1 to clean electricity generation. And that's why we
2 are supportive of Pennsylvania joining the Regional
3 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI, to limit power
4 sector emissions and drive investment in clean
5 energy. There have been numerous studies of RGGI's
6 impacts, and all of them demonstrate the program's
7 record of success for participating states. These
8 studies show the program has not only dramatically
9 reduced carbon emissions, but also harmful criteria
10 and pollutants and created jobs and other economic
11 value. This could be of particular financial
12 benefit to Pennsylvania and the DEP.

13 I'm going to skip through some of my
14 written testimony and just - and move into saying
15 that we also want to make sure that funding for -
16 from RGGI goes towards helping folks in Philadelphia
17 and around the State who are most likely burdened by
18 large energy bills and helping folks, particularly
19 low income residents, to access solar and help in
20 low income communities to reduce environmental
21 pollution. Thank you again for the opportunity to
22 testify.

23 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Christine.

24 Next up, we have Number Four, Joel
25 Hicks. Joel, are you on the line?

1 MR. HICKS: I am here.

2 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you. Go
3 ahead, Joel.

4 MR. HICKS: Good morning. My name is
5 Joel Hicks. I'm from Carlisle Borough. I'm also a
6 councilman with Carlisle Borough. I'm speaking
7 today on behalf of Clean Jobs for Pennsylvania.

8 This CJFP coalition is in favor of
9 this rulemaking. Members of CJFP stand for the
10 creation and preservation of clean energy jobs in
11 the Commonwealth. RGGI is absolutely critical in
12 achieving those goals. Pennsylvania's at a
13 crossroads. As a national leader in the energy
14 sector, thousands of jobs rely on electricity
15 generation, but some of those forms of electricity
16 lead to dirty air and health consequences. To put
17 it starkly, Pennsylvania ranks 41st in renewable
18 energy consumption as a shared state total.

19 Furthermore, ignoring the negative
20 social costs of greenhouse gases, which the US
21 Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed is a harmful
22 pollutant under the Clean Air Act, continues to be a
23 public policy failure. The overwhelming number of
24 economists support the price on carbon as an
25 efficient way to internalize these externalities,

1 provide solid economic footing for this rule.
2 Interestingly, bipartisan cooperation, lead by
3 Republican lawmakers in the Clean Air Act amendment
4 of 1990, directed DEP to manage a market-based
5 emission trading system to mitigate the sources of
6 acid rain, which was caused by sulfur dioxide and
7 nitrogen oxides.

8 The cost of achieving these
9 environmental objectives with cap and trade were
10 significantly less than would have been with command
11 and control regulatory approaches, with estimates
12 ranging from cost-saving between 15 and 90 percent.
13 In other words, it worked and it's working again
14 with carbon mitigation under RGGI.

15 Now, with RGGI, polluting fossil fuel
16 plants pay for the social and health costs of carbon
17 emissions they release into the air. It allows
18 owners of electric generators to gradually reduce
19 their abatement costs in a fair market-based system.

20 Despite numerous unfounded claims that
21 we don't understand how RGGI will specifically
22 impact Pennsylvania, Resources for the Future, a
23 leading research institute on energy and
24 environmental policy yielded four significant
25 findings on Pennsylvania's potential entry into

1 RGGI. Number one, significant emission reductions
2 in Pennsylvania and the US. Number two, an
3 observable change in electricity prices. Number
4 three, increased nuclear generation and decreased
5 natural gas generation in Pennsylvania. And number
6 four, increased natural gas and nuclear generation
7 and energy exports in Pennsylvania. All of these
8 outcomes are favorable for our climate and
9 economical goals.

10 In its first decade, RGGI has
11 generated net positive economic value for the
12 participating states on the order of \$4.7 billion,
13 has led to tens of thousands of job years while also
14 helping to dramatically reduce carbon emissions in
15 the RGGI states' electric sector, decreasing by 45
16 percent between the base years of 2006 and 2008 to
17 the period of 2015 and 2017.

18 A study covering a five-year period
19 shows that RGGI's co-benefits of human health
20 exceeded \$5 billion. Pennsylvania and other RGGI
21 states, using the revenues of carbon emissions, can
22 chose to invest in energy efficiency and clean job
23 creation programs.

24 Pennsylvania's behind the curve in
25 addressing greenhouse gases and any other harmful

1 pollutants that accompany their release. It's time
2 for us to support our skilled workforce and advance
3 it and to claim electricity production. The
4 benefits are crystal clear, cleaner air, improved
5 public health, high-paying jobs and affordable
6 electricity prices. Clean jobs are the future of
7 our energy economy.

8 Around the nation and in Pennsylvania,
9 coal plants are retiring or converting to natural
10 gas. These affects local workers, communities, and
11 businesses. However, RGGI presents an opportunity
12 for the legislature to direct funds to these workers
13 and communities to help transition to a clean energy
14 economy.

15 Pennsylvania has begun adding
16 renewable energy resources like wind and solar,
17 which is an important step in the right direction.
18 However, Pennsylvania's policies still favor dirty
19 electricity sources over clean ones like wind, solar
20 and nuclear power. This unfair advantage stifles
21 new, clean energy projects and threatens to
22 prematurely shut down emissions-free nuclear power
23 plants. NASCENT Technologies yet to be
24 commercialized to just a small modular reactors must
25 be able to compete on a level playing field. The

1 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission penalizes
2 states for promoting renewable generation and it
3 makes it crystal clear Pennsylvania must use every
4 policy tool to meet their greenhouse gas targets.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Joel.

7 Next up, we have Robert Routh. Are
8 you there, Robert?

9 Hey, Robert.

10 ATTORNEY ROUTH: Hi, Jessica.

11 So Robert Routh, Philadelphia.
12 Testifying on behalf of Clean Air Council. I am a
13 public policy and regulatory attorney, and Clean Air
14 Council joins others in strongly supporting this
15 proposed rulemaking. We look forward to
16 Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional
17 Greenhouse Gas Initiative beginning in January 2022.

18 Pennsylvania is a globally significant
19 polluter, and it is, therefore, imperative that we
20 do our fair share to reduce our greenhouse gas
21 emissions to avoid catastrophic levels of climate
22 change. It is fundamentally necessary policy that
23 happens to be overwhelming popular, too.

24 So let's be clear, this CO2 budget
25 trading program represents a truly significant step.

1 We're looking at a net reduction of 188 million tons
2 of carbon emissions from the electric power sector
3 by 2030. Those cumulative emission reductions are
4 critical, given that CO2 persists in the atmosphere
5 for decades and has compounding impacts. While this
6 program is applicable only to the power sector,
7 which is responsible for about one third of
8 Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas pollution, this sector
9 is key to the process of de-carbonization and is
10 both the most cost effective to be de-carbonized and
11 a means through which to de-carbonize other sectors.

12 But clearly, the benefits to
13 Pennsylvania from RGGI participation go far beyond
14 the significant reductions of climate-disrupting
15 pollution. \$2.3 billion in monetized health
16 benefits by the end of the decade and a projected
17 net increase of over 27,000 jobs. Electricity
18 prices will lower as increased renewable energy
19 generation, the cheapest new source of energy, comes
20 online. Electric bills can be further reduced by
21 investments in energy efficiency that reduce
22 consumption. That means lower electricity prices
23 without compromising Pennsylvania's status as a
24 major electricity exporter.

25 This program will also generate

1 hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The most
2 recent quarterly RGGI auction, held last week, saw a
3 clearing price of \$7.41 per allowance. Each
4 allowance is equivalent to one ton of carbon
5 pollution. Now, prices fluctuate, but using that as
6 an example and taking into account the waste coal
7 set aside and the ECR trigger prices, that would
8 lead to over \$500 million in proceeds generated in
9 the program's first year.

10 These funds must be reinvested in a
11 manner that further reduces air pollution, but must
12 also maximize the health, economic development, and
13 other co-benefits of such reductions to advance
14 environmental, economic, and racial justice. For
15 communities already transitioning from the
16 extraction economy and inevitable transition, these
17 funds can be used to offer a path forward.

18 The state legislature's approach, the
19 status quo, has been to simply do nothing for these
20 communities and families. One model to consider
21 would be Virginia, which will participate in RGGI
22 beginning next month. Virginia has chosen to
23 address the important inequity concerns by directing
24 half of the state's RGGI auction proceeds to energy
25 efficiency upgrades for low-income Virginians and 45

1 percent to flood mitigation, with a set-aside for
2 disadvantaged communities. This is one approach,
3 and Pennsylvania will have the flexibility to tailor
4 its reinvestment of auction proceeds for the benefit
5 of all Pennsylvanians under state law.

6 I'll briefly mention some policy
7 recommendations we believe would strengthen this
8 proposed rule. First, we urge DEP to provide a
9 mechanism to adjust the starting allowance budget if
10 actual emissions are lower than currently projected.
11 It can be challenging to accurately predict future
12 emissions, and a cap that is set too high will
13 affect the integrity of the program.

14 Second, we acknowledge the problems
15 posed by abandoned coal refuse piles, but do not
16 support the waste coal set-aside. At minimum, we
17 recommend amending the definition of legacy
18 emissions, which determines the number of free
19 allowances provided in the set-aside, which should
20 be no larger than is necessary to cover actual
21 emissions. Since 2018, four waste coal plants have
22 retired. These plants should be removed from the
23 calculation of legacy emissions as they won't exist
24 in 2022.

25 And third, we strongly support the

1 strategic use set-aside account included in the
2 proposed rule, and we'll offer further
3 recommendations to improve this provision, including
4 ensuring the set-aside account survives
5 independently of the waste coal set-aside.

6 Clean Air Council will offer
7 additional details on these recommendations along
8 with supporting references in our comprehensive
9 written technical comments. But I really just want
10 to thank you for your time and for considering our
11 testimony. Thanks.

12 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Robert.

13 Next up, we have Number Six,
14 Representative Donna Bullock. Representative
15 Bullock, are you on the line?

16 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Yes, I am.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. SHIRLEY: Good afternoon. Go
19 ahead and begin.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BULLOCK: Thank you.

21 Good afternoon. I am State
22 Representative Donna Bullock, and I represent the
23 195th Legislative District of Pennsylvania, which
24 includes parts of north and west Philadelphia. I am
25 also the Chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black

1 Caucus and Secretary of the Joint Legislative Air,
2 Water, and Pollution and Conservation Committee.
3 More importantly, I am a member and supporter of
4 Moms' Clean Air Force, a resident of this dear
5 Commonwealth, and a mother of two children.

6 As a legislator in the House of
7 Representatives, I have become a voice for black and
8 brown communities on environmental justice issues,
9 not one that I thought I would do when I came to
10 Harrisburg, but one that I realize was just as
11 important as other issues that impact communities of
12 color.

13 These frontline communities are often
14 faced with higher air pollution and higher asthma
15 rates than the general population. But at the same
16 time, these communities are often last to benefit
17 from climate change efforts, such as clean renewable
18 and efficient energy sources such as wind and solar.

19 RGGI is a bipartisan, multi-state,
20 market-based cap-and-trade program that aims to
21 reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other air
22 pollutants from power plants. By participating in
23 RGGI, Pennsylvania can incentivize power companies
24 to do better to reduce their pollution, and
25 hopefully invest in cleaner and zero carbon energy

1 over time. RGGI has proven state after state to be
2 successful in reducing power sector driven air
3 pollution and reducing asthma attacks and other
4 respiratory-related hospital visits or - and also
5 reducing premature deaths that may be related to
6 respiratory illnesses.

7 While RGGI's cap-and-trade program has
8 shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other
9 harmful pollutants, it has not guaranteed reductions
10 in communities of color, low income communities and
11 other frontline communities. These environmental
12 justice communities have historically been
13 disproportionately affected by the siting of
14 polluting facilities, systemic racism, and has
15 limited their mobility as well as their influence
16 over where the facilities are located near their
17 homes, schools, places of worship, and where they
18 work.

19 Systemic racism has also limited the
20 influence of these communities - these communities
21 will have over an inherently spiritually biased
22 market-based, market-driven program like RGGI. A
23 study conducted by the Food and Water Watch found
24 that RGGI can compound the already disproportionate
25 burden of these communities. While I support RGGI

1 and its goals, I fear that RGGI is not aligned with
2 an environmental justice strategy. The market
3 forces built into the cap-and-trade program may
4 continue to drive these inequities.

5 However, if we build safeguards into
6 the legislation now, into the rules now, all
7 communities can benefit from equitable reduction in
8 greenhouse gas emissions, which would decrease the
9 burdens of frontline communities and significantly
10 improve the conditions of black and brown and low
11 income communities throughout the Commonwealth.

12 Impacted communities, environmental
13 justice leaders, and the general public should be
14 frequently consulted. They should be invited to
15 provide input to the design, implementation, and
16 continuation of our State's participation in RGGI.
17 DEP should collect and make publicly available data
18 that identifies how RGGI impacts environmental
19 justice communities. This data should show
20 specifically the distribution of greenhouse gas
21 emissions reductions throughout the Commonwealth.
22 We should know where are the reductions happening
23 and where our power plants taking advantage of
24 allowances to continue to emit pollutants.

25 Lastly, a significant portion of the

1 estimated 300 to 500 million of annual proceeds
2 should be allocated to programs and initiatives to
3 assist environmental justice communities throughout
4 the State. A fund can be created from these
5 proceeds to reduce air pollution in the communities,
6 any other inequities that arise as a result of our
7 participation in RGGI, as well as long-standing
8 systemic environmental racism and injustices. The
9 establishment and distribution of this fund should
10 be informed by the environmental justice leaders and
11 communities.

12 In conclusion, RGGI is proven to work.
13 It makes sense economically and environmentally.
14 Many will testify about that today. It will reduce
15 air pollution and have a significant impact on
16 climate change. It will create jobs, and we should
17 all be supportive of that.

18 However, we should also take this
19 opportunity to address systemic, structural,
20 environmental racism. We have an opportunity here
21 to improve the lives and health of black and brown
22 Pennsylvanians who live in the frontline communities
23 and to not continue in inherently unfair and racist
24 policies and systems that keep black and brown
25 residents locked into environmentally harmful areas

1 and locked out of the rewards of good policies, such
2 as cleaner, affordable energy, cleaner air, and
3 cleaner jobs. We have an opportunity to ensure that
4 all communities can equitably benefit from the gains
5 made by our State's participation in RGGI.

6 I'd like to thank you for giving me
7 the opportunity to testify today and I would like to
8 make myself available for any additional comments or
9 resources that I can provide in my role as a State
10 Representative. Thank you.

11 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you,
12 Representative Bullock.

13 Next up, we have Jennifer Baka. Do we
14 have Jennifer on the line?

15 MS. BAKA: Yep, I'm here. Can you
16 hear me?

17 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you,
18 Jennifer. Go ahead.

19 MS. BAKA: Excellent. Thank you so
20 much.

21 My name is Dr. Jennifer Baka. I'm an
22 assistant professor of geography at Penn State
23 University in State College, Pennsylvania. I'm also
24 a member of the DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory
25 Board. I'm testifying today in my personal capacity

1 as a resident of the State of Pennsylvania. I'm
2 testifying to express my strong support for RGGI.

3 Joining the initiative would be a
4 decisive step towards reducing the environmental,
5 public health, and economic impacts of climate
6 change, one of the greatest challenges currently
7 facing our State and the planet. According to
8 RGGI's 2017 monitoring report, CO2 emissions from
9 2015 to 2017 were 45.3 percent below the 2006/2008
10 baseline period. Thus, RGGI is already having a
11 real and sizable impact on reducing carbon emissions
12 in the mid-Atlantic and northeast regions.

13 Further, RGGI auctions have generated
14 over \$3 billion of revenue to date, most of which
15 have been used to support investments in energy
16 efficiency and clean energy. These achievements
17 have occurred without raising electricity prices and
18 without impeding economic growth. In fact,
19 electricity prices have decreased about two percent
20 per year on average in seven of the nine RGGI
21 states. According to a report by the Analysis
22 Group, a leading non-partisan consulting firm, RGGI
23 has directly contributed \$1.4 million in economic
24 value to member states between 2015 and 2017.

25 Importantly, these gains have been

1 achieved without negatively impacting jobs. The
2 DEP's own analyses project similar benefits for
3 Pennsylvania once we join RGGI. These include a
4 potential 25 percent reduction in CO2 emissions by
5 2030, a net increase of 27,000 jobs in the
6 Commonwealth, and nearly \$2 billion in contributions
7 to gross state product.

8 From my point of view, Pennsylvania is
9 uniquely positioned to benefit even more from
10 joining RGGI. According to analyses conducted by
11 both the DEP and the Federal Department of Energy,
12 the energy efficiency and clean energy sectors are
13 two of the fastest growing employment sectors in
14 both Pennsylvania and nationally. These sectors
15 offer high-paying jobs that can keep workers and
16 their families here in Pennsylvania.

17 However, the DEP analysis also
18 emphasized the need to invest in workforce
19 development to better qualify Pennsylvanians for
20 these jobs. Using a portion of the auction revenues
21 to invest in developing a clean energy workforce is
22 a way to build this much needed and highly sought
23 after workforce here in Pennsylvania.

24 Overall, RGGI will help to reduce
25 carbon pollution, improve public health, and

1 stimulate economic growth. This is important
2 because it helps to contrast popular discourses that
3 are often promoted by fossil fuel advocates, which
4 pits environmental regulation and economic
5 development as foes. RGGI's track record, to date,
6 shows that economic and environmental regulations
7 can, in fact, work together.

8 My one ask for the Board actually
9 echoed what Representative Bullock just so
10 eloquently proposed herself. I'd like the
11 Environmental Quality Board to consider investing a
12 portion of the auction revenues in environmental
13 justice communities throughout the State. These
14 regions have historically been disproportionately
15 impacted by environmental degradation, often due to
16 energy development. Allocating funding to reverse
17 these injustices will help to undo these historic
18 injustices and environmental racism.

19 I'm going to end on a personal note.
20 I'm the granddaughter of coalminers from the
21 Scranton area. I never met my paternal grandfather,
22 as he died in a mining accident when I was four - or
23 when my father was four. My maternal grandfather
24 lived into his 80s, despite suffering black lung. I
25 grew up in a small town with a mine fire and

1 suffered chronic asthma as a child and often missed
2 30 days of school per year due to my poor
3 respiratory health. RGGI offers an important
4 opportunity for us as Pennsylvanians to erase this
5 legacy of environmental degradation, which as my own
6 experience demonstrates, often spans generations.

7 Instead of continuing our legacy as a
8 sacrifice zone to literally fuel and power economic
9 development elsewhere in the nation, RGGI gives us
10 the chance to reverse our legacy of a carbon lock-in
11 state and chart a new course as a clean energy
12 leader.

13 Thank you so much for your time and
14 efforts for transforming the energy and
15 environmental legacies of our State.

16 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Jennifer.

17 Next up, we have Tim White.

18 MR. JAGIELA: Jessica, Tim is not able
19 to join the webinar. He said that he'll be
20 submitting his testimony written to the email
21 address.

22 MS. SHIRLEY: All right. Sounds good
23 to me.

24 Next up, we have Michael Kovach.
25 Michael, Number Nine, are you on?

1 MR. KOVACH: There you go. This WebEx
2 is new to me, so I wasn't sure.

3 MS. SHIRLEY: All right.
4 Sounds like you got the hang of it.
5 Go ahead.

6 MR. KOVACH: Thank you.
7 My name is Michael Kovach. Good
8 afternoon. I'm a sustainable grass-based livestock
9 farmer from South Pymatuning Township in Mercer
10 County. I'm also the Vice President and Policy
11 Director for the Pennsylvania Farmer's Union.

12 Geologist and earth science by
13 education, prior to becoming a farmer in 2008, I was
14 a partner in a small natural gas-producing company,
15 which produced natural gas from the Devonian
16 sandstone layer in southwest PA.

17 I'd first like to thank you for the
18 opportunity to testify on behalf of the family
19 farmers who feed our Commonwealth in good times and
20 bad on the importance of the Regional Greenhouse Gas
21 Initiative as well as other legislation aimed toward
22 reducing and mitigating the effects of climate
23 change.

24 For farmers, the realities of our
25 changing climate are undeniable and seem worse with

1 each new season. Extremes are continually becoming
2 more extreme. Annual precipitation is coming in
3 fewer, heavier events. Planting and harvesting
4 seasons are shifting. Pest populations affecting
5 both crops and livestock are exploding. Our ability
6 to produce the food that feeds Pennsylvanians is
7 being challenged just when we need it the most.

8 RGGI's an important step toward the
9 ultimate end goal of mitigating climate change that
10 is already threatening our food supply. RGGI also
11 promises to bolster an already rapidly growing
12 renewable energy industry in our Commonwealth,
13 providing jobs and income in rural and urban areas
14 alike. By some estimates new job growth in
15 renewable energy have outpaced new jobs in more
16 conventional source energy sector two to one over
17 the past couple of years.

18 Given the tone of the incoming
19 presidential administration, paired with our
20 Governor Wolf's Administration's obvious and ongoing
21 commitment to a greener, brighter future,
22 Pennsylvania's well-positioned to become a leader in
23 renewable energy jobs, much as it did in the lower
24 carbon, natural gas-fired electric production.

25 As part of any such initiative to

1 shift away from traditional fossil fuels, however,
2 care should be taken to ensure those Pennsylvanians
3 displaced by such a shift, such as coalminers and
4 coal-fired power plant workers, are well-positioned
5 and trained to move into the new economy seamlessly.

6 In 2017, the National Farmers' Union
7 became the first major agricultural membership
8 organization to adopt a policy acknowledging the
9 anthropogenic nature of climate change. Our policy
10 acknowledges the need for massive reduction in
11 emissions, including greenhouse gases, from all
12 sectors of the economy. But it also acknowledges
13 the role that more mindful approach to agriculture
14 can play in its mitigation.

15 With those members' written policies,
16 it is my pleasure to both endorse Pennsylvania's
17 participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
18 Initiative and encourage DEP and other agencies to
19 continue to keep agriculture at the table for future
20 initiatives around this most important of topics.
21 It's the only industry capable of not only
22 participating in reducing emissions, but
23 sequestering the legacy carbon that would still be
24 causing trouble in our atmosphere for years to come,
25 even if the emissions were to drop to zero tomorrow.

1 So with that, thank you very much for
2 your time and your hard work on this important
3 initiative. And the Farmers Union stand ready to
4 assist in any way that we can in furthering this
5 pursuit of climate change mitigation.

6 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Michael.

7 Next up, we have David Heayn-Menendez.

8 MR. HEAYN-MENENDEZ: Hello.

9 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, David.

10 MR. HEAYN-MENENDEZ: Good afternoon.

11 My name is David Heayn-Menendez. I am from
12 Lewisburg. And I am testifying as Executive
13 Director of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light,
14 a state-wide climate justice organization which
15 takes climate change to be the moral and ethical
16 issue of our time.

17 I'm here to tell you today that faith
18 communities across Pennsylvania believe we have a
19 responsibility to each other and must take action
20 where and when we can against climate change.
21 Responsible planning and investment in our future is
22 the moral expectation of all citizens. Therefore,
23 we must move forward in favor of RGGI to live our
24 moral responsibility to truly be stewards of
25 creation.

1 Every tradition teaches us to care for
2 the Earth. I believe that we are not only
3 accountable to each other, but also to God for our
4 actions. One needs to look no further than
5 scripture for guidance. Hundreds of verses across
6 all religions concern the environment, as we are
7 taught over and over again that greater, even than
8 the creation of mankind, is the creation of heavens
9 and the Earth.

10 Pennsylvania is the third largest
11 energy-producing state and one of the largest
12 greenhouse gas polluters in the United States. We,
13 therefore, more than any state already in RGGI have
14 the most to gain and the greatest potential impact
15 on climate change by joining the initiative. The
16 future of our state and planet is in these types of
17 fair and collaborative agreements which lead to
18 growth, healthier environment, and a future which
19 benefits all Pennsylvanians through better, stable
20 jobs, lower energy costs, and improved air quality.
21 That is not to speak even of the larger effects such
22 efforts would have on mitigating the catastrophic
23 effects of climate change on weather events.

24 My community, a river valley community
25 of Lewisburg, sits in the banks of the Susquehanna

1 River. We have been devastated by flooding in the
2 past. As a member of Bureau Council myself, I am
3 acutely aware of the edge of a knife upon which my
4 community and countless others along the river sit
5 waiting for the next flood as we continue to ignore
6 the obvious and morally right choices, which our
7 neighbors have taken to mitigate climate change.

8 RGGI is a simple, cost effective,
9 flexible, and proven cap-and-investment program.
10 Without a program like RGGI in Pennsylvania, our
11 carbon emissions will simply rise and continue to
12 choke our cities and pollute our natural areas.
13 This is not a fantasy or a radical initiative. It
14 is one backed by data, supported by science, and one
15 which keeps up with the evident economic trends. We
16 can no longer rely on our coal mines and steel
17 plants in Pennsylvania.

18 The jobs that such an initiative would
19 bring would lift thousands up out of poverty,
20 increase the tax base, improve schools and
21 infrastructure and give hard-working families a
22 better future. The states that participate in RGGI
23 have already seen more than two billion in proceeds,
24 allowing for vital and necessary reinvestments in
25 our community. We have a fundamental

1 responsibility, a moral imperative to our fellow
2 human beings to improve our world and to protect our
3 communities and the generations to come.

4 Lastly, the health costs of the fossil
5 fuel industry have weighed heavily on Pennsylvanian
6 families. And when those jobs went away, towns were
7 slowly suffocated by debt, health issues, and the
8 lack of opportunities. During COVID, it has become
9 even more evident to anyone paying attention that
10 frontline and in particular BIPOC communities across
11 America have suffered the most during the pandemic,
12 and not least of all because of the air pollutants
13 which concentrate in the areas least served by our
14 health care industry.

15 People are dying disproportionately in
16 these communities not because they are taking the
17 virus any less seriously, but because the pollution
18 we continue to pump into the air contributes to
19 asthma, respiratory illness and many other major
20 factors in the comorbidities we have seen ravage
21 communities this year. RGGI is one step towards
22 addressing the systemic racial and socioeconomic
23 injustices that millions of Pennsylvanians face
24 every day.

25 A future with good jobs,

1 opportunities, thriving communities supported by
2 responsible government and breathable air, which
3 doesn't poison our lungs, is what I want for my two
4 young sons and the world they will inherit. Thank
5 you so much for the opportunity to testify and speak
6 on behalf of religious communities across
7 Pennsylvania.

8 MS. SHIRELY: All right. Thank you,
9 David.

10 Next up, we have Number 11, Walter
11 Tsou. Are you on the line, Dr. Tsou?

12 DR. TSOU: I am here, yes. Thank you.

13 MS. SHIRLEY: All right. Go ahead.

14 DR. TSOU: Good afternoon. My name is
15 Dr. Walter Tsou. I'm the Executive Director of
16 Physicians for Social Responsibility based in
17 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and on behalf of PSRPA,
18 I strongly urge Pennsylvania to enter RGGI.

19 Air pollution sees no geographic
20 boundaries. The current map of states that are
21 participating in RGGI shows the keystone rule that
22 our state plays. We are literally surrounded by New
23 York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, all states
24 that have chosen to join RGGI. Our failure to
25 participate means that we will be stuck in a 20th

1 century energy mentality. Our fossil fuel burning
2 will only continue to pollute the air with health
3 consequences, especially for our precious children.
4 Meanwhile, our surrounding states will have the
5 funds to invest in the future with renewable energy,
6 saving billions in future healthcare costs.
7 Pennsylvania needs to get on board.

8 I draw your attention to three
9 independent studies that have looked at RGGI and
10 health. The first two looked at children's health
11 and RGGI. In April 2019, Lee and Park published on
12 the, quote, impacts of RGGI on infant mortality, a
13 quasi-experimental study in the USA, 2003-2014, in
14 the Open British Medical Journal.

15 In the study, they compared RGGI
16 states against those that did not participate in
17 RGGI, including Pennsylvania. Because the impact of
18 air pollution is most immediately seen in vital
19 statistics like neonatal and infant mortality, this
20 early study gives us the sense of whether RGGI
21 impacts health. They found that neonatal mortality,
22 which is in the first month of life, and infant
23 mortality, which is in the first year of life, were
24 statistically improved in RGGI states over those
25 states who did not participate in RGGI. Infant

1 mortality worsened with increases in carbon dioxide
2 reemphasizing the important contribution of air
3 pollution on developing infant lungs.

4 Infants with damaged lungs are much
5 more likely to have permanent, life-long damage to
6 their respiratory systems with long-term costs
7 toward healthcare systems. This large, state-based
8 comparison study emphasizes the unquestionable early
9 benefit of RGGI to our children.

10 A second study in the July 2020
11 Environmental Health Perspectives entitled Co-
12 Benefits to Children's Health of the US RGGI
13 Initiative by Perera, et al., looked at ambient
14 PM2.5 concentrations between 2009 and 2014. They
15 used EPA risk assessment and health data to create a
16 mapping and analysis tool. This tool was used to
17 estimate known relationships between air pollution,
18 especially PM2.5, and wide spectrum of known
19 childhood illness.

20 In using this mapping modeling tool,
21 they estimated the impact of RGGI on illnesses and
22 associated cost and found that conservatively RGGI
23 avoided 537 childhood asthma cases, 112 pre-term
24 births, 98 cases of autism spectrum disorder, and 56
25 cases of low birth weight. They estimated that the

1 cost savings for RGGI was immediately between \$200
2 and \$358 million. RGGI provided substantial
3 childhood benefits with immediate and long-term
4 future economic benefits to society.

5 Finally, in 2017, ABT Associates
6 prepared an independent analysis of the public
7 health impacts of RGGI between 2009 and 2014. This
8 study was very similar in methodology to the Perera,
9 et al. study that I just mentioned, but this time,
10 it was focused on adult health.

11 Based on their study, they
12 conservatively estimated that RGGI saved between 300
13 and 830 premature adult deaths, avoided hundreds of
14 cases of heart attacks and acute bronchitis and
15 thousands of cases of asthma. Significantly, they
16 estimated between hundreds of hospital admissions
17 and hundreds of hospital ER visits were avoided.
18 Tens of thousands of lost work days were avoided
19 because of RGGI.

20 Their estimated savings of related
21 health costs was between \$3 to \$8.3 billion. Every
22 state that participated in RGGI benefitted, and
23 Pennsylvania would do just as well, if not better,
24 because we will then be surrounded by states who are
25 participating in RGGI, with, of course, the

1 exception of West Virginia and Ohio.

2 I want to conclude by saying that the
3 world believes that climate change is real and
4 represents an existential threat to the planet.
5 Pennsylvania is the third leading state producer of
6 greenhouse gases, which means that they are major
7 contributors to the United States' contribution to
8 global warming. RGGI has a ten-year record of
9 success in both creating incentives and funding a
10 transition to reduce carbon emissions using a
11 market-based approach that has won bipartisan
12 support. It's time for us to join RGGI. Thank you.

13 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Dr. Tsou.

14 Next up, we have Dave DeMaria. Do we
15 have Dave, Number 12, on the line?

16 MR. DEMARIA: Hi, Jessica. Yeah, I'm
17 here. And it's DeMaria (changing pronunciation),
18 but that's fine.

19 MS. SHIRLEY: I'm sorry.

20 MR. DEMARIA: No worries.

21 So this is David DeMaria. I'm from
22 Warrington, Pennsylvania. And thank you for giving
23 me the opportunity to provide comment on the
24 proposal for Pennsylvania to finally join the
25 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and to be part of

1 these great testimonies I've been listening to
2 today.

3 Just a quick note on my own
4 background. I'm a chemical engineer with 40 years
5 of experience working in the industrial gas,
6 chemical, and environmental energy sectors, often in
7 support of fossil fuel industries. And I'm also an
8 environmental activist. And the blend of these I
9 believe gives me a great perspective on issues like
10 this.

11 I would argue that our participation
12 in the RGGI is already long overdue. RGGI has a
13 ten-year history of delivering health and climate
14 benefits to participating states throughout the
15 northeast and mid-Atlantic, and it is well-
16 documented that residents in these states experience
17 significantly fewer premature deaths, heart attacks,
18 and respiratory illnesses. This last point is
19 particularly important to Pennsylvanians because of
20 our distinction of having the fifth dirtiest power
21 sector in the country.

22 It's also so important to note that
23 the health effects of dangerous air pollution like
24 soot and smog fall most heavily on communities of
25 color. A new study published in the General

1 Environmental Journal estimates that 40 percent of
2 air pollution-related coronary heart disease deaths
3 in Allegheny County occur in environmental justice
4 communities even though these communities represent
5 just 27 percent of the County's total population.

6 In addition to the undeniable health
7 benefits, the flexible cap-and-trade features of the
8 RGGI have proven to be an economic boom to its
9 members, returning well over \$2 billion in proceeds.
10 Maryland, for example, has used its more than \$500
11 million in proceeds to strategically invest in
12 energy efficiency upgrades for low to moderate
13 income households and improving energy efficiency
14 for small businesses as a way to drive energy costs
15 even lower. As Pennsylvania recovers from the
16 economic downturn brought on by COVID-19, there will
17 undoubtedly be needs that these proceeds can address
18 by a strategic investment in pollution-reducing
19 activities.

20 The modeling that DEP has already done
21 estimates that from 2022 to 2030, participating in
22 RGGI would lead to an increase in our gross state
23 product of nearly \$2 billion and a net increase of
24 over 27,000 jobs in our Commonwealth. These are
25 primarily jobs in the clean energy sector, one of

1 the fastest growing in the country, and position us
2 to be a true leader in this field. And as a net
3 gain, they take into effect any job losses in other
4 segments such as the coal industry. However, the
5 coal industry has already been in steady decline for
6 decades due to market forces such as cheaper natural
7 gas.

8 The results also show that the overall
9 citizens of our Commonwealth could see a cumulative
10 increase of \$3.7 billion in disposable income by
11 2050 as energy costs continue to decrease over time.

12 These estimates are at the low end
13 because they don't include investments of RGGI
14 revenues and things like energy efficiency
15 improvements for businesses and homeowners. So
16 health wise and economic wise participation in RGGI
17 already makes tremendous sense.

18 But what makes it a true no-brainer is
19 the climate impacts that this will help lessen.
20 Pennsylvania is the third highest state in terms of
21 emitting greenhouse gases, and the power sector
22 alone makes up roughly a third of that total.
23 Climate change remains the existential threat to our
24 state, our country, and our planet, and the time to
25 take substantial action is also long overdue. My

1 friends, my family, and my neighbors are all worried
2 about this. And as the polls show, the number of
3 people who doubt the crystal clear science is a
4 continuously shrinking minority. We want our
5 leaders to act.

6 Beyond the record high temperatures
7 and ice melts throughout the Arctic/Antarctic
8 region, we're experiencing extremely volatile
9 weather all across the country, fires out west,
10 severe hurricanes down south, record flood waters
11 throughout the middle of the country, and increased
12 flooding throughout the Commonwealth, even tornadoes
13 hitting my hometown here in Bucks County twice this
14 year, something that never happens. No serious
15 person can deny what is occurring and the scientific
16 explanation.

17 We can't wait any longer to take clear
18 action to lessen the impact on the planet from the
19 amount of carbon we are putting into the atmosphere.
20 Fortunately, very fortunately, it's no longer a
21 choice between what's good for the planet, the
22 environment, and the health of our people and having
23 a strong and robust economy. A program like RGGI
24 accomplishes all of these objectives. Thank you.

25 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Dave.

1 Next up, we have Lindsey Walaski.

2 MS. WALASKI: Yes. Good afternoon,
3 Jessica. Can you hear me okay?

4 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you.

5 MS. WALASKI: Awesome. Thank you so
6 much.

7 Good afternoon, members of the
8 Environmental Control Board of the Department of
9 Environmental Protection. My name is Lindsey
10 Walaski, and I'm a mechanical engineer from
11 Philadelphia. I am grateful for the opportunity to
12 speak with you as a private citizen this afternoon
13 to provide my support for Pennsylvania joining the
14 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

15 In my six years of living in the
16 Keystone State, I've already witnessed local impacts
17 from climate change: the more frequent and intense
18 rain events, heat waves, and severe weather
19 throughout the year. The Commonwealth is committed
20 to fighting climate change through state-wide carbon
21 reduction goals established in the 2018 Climate
22 Action Plan. Now we must focus on creating and
23 implementing solutions to achieve these goals.

24 The electricity sector is the second
25 largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the

1 Commonwealth highlighting the tremendous opportunity
2 for reductions. While opponents of RGGI erroneously
3 claim this program will initiate a carbon tax, in
4 fact, the price of carbon on electricity is already
5 being paid by Pennsylvanians who experience air
6 pollution, health problems due to respiratory
7 illnesses, and other impacts of climate change.
8 These burdens will disproportionately impact low
9 income families and communities of color, which has
10 already been mentioned, and the RGGI program will
11 ensure these environmental impacts are accounted for
12 in the true cost of electricity.

13 Pennsylvania would be the 12th state
14 to join this initiative and RGGI has a proven
15 success with the participating states. These states
16 have reduced power plant carbon emissions by 47
17 percent since the program's inception, with
18 tremendous economic benefits as well. The reported
19 proceeds from participating states are estimated to
20 be \$2 billion while generating job growth and
21 increasing per capita GDP. The revenue collected
22 from RGGI can be allocated toward smaller
23 organizations in the state, filling in the financial
24 gaps to further support a clean energy transition
25 beyond improvements in the power plants.

1 Currently, Maryland, who's a
2 participating state in RGGI, has funded more than
3 \$500 million in energy efficiency upgrades for low
4 to moderate income households and small businesses.
5 Similarly, Delaware utilizes RGGI revenues to fund
6 energy efficiency upgrades to K through 12 schools
7 throughout the state.

8 In participating states, electricity
9 prices in the region decreased by 6.4 percent in the
10 first eight years of the program due to lower demand
11 through energy efficiency programs funded by RGGI.
12 The opportunity to fund more energy efficiency and
13 renewable energy projects will expand the positive
14 impacts of RGGI beyond the electricity producing
15 power plants.

16 As the State continues to recover from
17 the economic devastation caused by COVID-19, the
18 revenue collected from RGGI can be allocated towards
19 the most deserving populations. Example investments
20 include energy bill assistance, low income
21 improvement programs, and support for communities
22 that have been impacted by the energy transition
23 away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy.
24 Participation in RGGI is expected to generate tens
25 of thousands of jobs in the Commonwealth, creating

1 sustainable economic opportunities for
2 Pennsylvanians for years to come and prioritizing a
3 clean energy economy in the State.

4 Thank you so much for the opportunity
5 to provide my support for this important program,
6 and I really appreciate all of DEP's efforts to make
7 this program a reality in the State. Thank you so
8 much for your time.

9 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Lindsey.

10 Next up, we have Kate Monahan. Do we
11 have Kate on the line?

12 MS. MONAHAN: Hi. Can you hear me?

13 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

14 MS. MONAHAN: Great.

15 Hi. Good afternoon and thank you to
16 the Department for the opportunity to provide
17 comments today. My name is Kate Monahan and I am a
18 resident of Henryville, Pennsylvania.

19 And today, I am representing Friends
20 Fiduciary Corporation. I'm the shareholder
21 engagement manager with Friends Fiduciary.
22 Headquartered in Philadelphia, Friends Fiduciary is
23 a faith-based, socially responsible investment firm.
24 We invest over half a billion dollars on behalf of
25 Quaker faith communities and other organizations in

1 Pennsylvania and across the country. And we invest
2 consistent with the Quaker values of peace,
3 integrity, equality, community, and care for
4 creation.

5 As investors, Friends Fiduciary sees
6 climate risk as the most serious systemic threat to
7 our economy and society. And, in fact, earlier this
8 year, we changed our investment policy to exclude
9 all fossil fuel companies to recognize not only the
10 environmental risk of a fossil fuel-reliant economy,
11 but also the investment risks oil and gas companies
12 face with a green transition. And for this reason,
13 we strongly support Pennsylvania's participation in
14 the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

15 We are not alone in seeing the climate
16 crisis as a danger to our portfolios. Just last
17 month, the Federal Reserve acknowledged climate
18 changes threat to the stability of the financial
19 system, and the CEO of the world's largest
20 investment company, Black Rock, has emphasizes that
21 climate change has become a defining factor in
22 companies' long-term prospects. Our entire economy
23 is at risk.

24 And as the state with the fourth most
25 polluting power sector in the US, it is imperative

1 that Pennsylvania do its part to reduce emissions
2 and mitigate climate change. And participating in
3 RGGI will mean at least a 25 percent reduction in
4 greenhouse gas emissions from our State's power
5 sector, which is crucial for the Commonwealth to
6 reach our emissions targets and avoid future
7 environmental and economy catastrophe.

8 There are many environmental and
9 public health arguments for participating in RGGI,
10 as other testimony has highlighted so well, but
11 there's also a very strong business case. And as
12 investors, we see implementing this carbon market
13 program as a financially prudent step at this time.
14 RGGI's cap-and-invest program is a proven, cost
15 effective, and flexible way to internalize the
16 existential costs from carbon to our economy and
17 society. Participation in RGGI would mean
18 significant health cost savings, potentially easing
19 the devastating public health burden
20 disproportionately borne by communities of color.

21 A recent study by Columbia University,
22 that's been mentioned earlier, found that the air
23 pollution reductions already generated by RGGI has
24 saved health costs of up to \$350 million, and that's
25 a conservative estimate. The market is rapidly

1 headed in this direction. It's really only a
2 question of whether Pennsylvania takes advantage of
3 the opportunity.

4 According to data released by the Wolf
5 administration in August, the clean energy sector is
6 already adding jobs at a faster rate than the fossil
7 fuel sector. And with RGGI, we will have
8 opportunity to add 27,000 more jobs, positioning our
9 State as a leader in the burgeoning clean energy
10 economy. And the significant proceeds from RGGI can
11 be used to ensure that both fossil fuel workers and
12 historically marginalized communities aren't left
13 behind in this inevitable transition.

14 As an investment business based in
15 Pennsylvania with a significant number of clients in
16 Pennsylvania, we at Friends Fiduciary believe that
17 in the absence of comprehensive legislation, joining
18 the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a
19 financially prudent way to protect the long-term
20 health of our communities and further strengthen our
21 State's economy. Thank you for your consideration
22 of our testimony.

23 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Kate.

24 Next up, we have Number 15, Paul
25 Metzloff.

1 MR. METZLOFF: Hello. Can you hear
2 me?

3 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you. Hi,
4 Paul.

5 MR. METZLOFF: Wonderful. Hello.
6 Thank you.

7 Good afternoon and thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak today. My name is Pastor Paul
9 Metzloff. I serve a Lutheran congregation in
10 Kingston, Pennsylvania. And today, I'm representing
11 Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania in
12 support of our Commonwealth linking to the Regional
13 Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

14 Since I'm a pastor, I'll start by
15 quoting the Book of Genesis, Chapter Two, verse 15,
16 to be specific, The Lord, God, took of the human and
17 put him in the garden to till it and keep it.
18 Alternatively, that could be translated as to serve
19 and protect it. In either case, that very first
20 Commandment that God gives to humanity is clearly to
21 care for creation, to live within it. There is a
22 moral imperative here, a calling, a commandment, if
23 you will.

24 When Jesus was asked about the
25 Commandments, and here I'm quoting from the twelfth

1 chapter of Mark's gospel, he says that the most
2 important Commandments are to love the Lord, your
3 God, with all your heart and with all your soul and
4 with all our mind and with all our strength and to
5 love your neighbor as yourself. I would argue that
6 caring for creation fits perfectly here, loving God
7 by protecting and preserving God's creation and
8 loving our neighbors by protecting and preserving
9 their environment, the air they breathe, the water
10 they drink, the land that produces their food, the
11 livable climate they need to thrive. These are also
12 Commandments.

13 And, of course, Commandments are not
14 things you do when you feel like it or have the time
15 or if you think the economy will support them.
16 They're things you're required to do. And this is
17 by no means only a Lutheran or even a Christian
18 perspective. Every other faith tradition of which I
19 am aware, and I have been both a Green Faith fellow
20 and worked with Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and
21 Light, all faith traditions call for protecting and
22 preserving creation. It makes no difference if we
23 call it God's creation or Earth Mother or nature or
24 turtle island. Whatever, we're supposed to take
25 care of it. Even the Environmental Rights Amendment

1 to our Constitution says that as trustee of these
2 resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and
3 maintain them for the benefit of all the people. So
4 that's pretty clear, all the way around.

5 But to speak more specifically about
6 RGGI. Bill McKibben, who is an environmental writer
7 and activist and also a person of faith, and I would
8 argue a prophetic voice, he likens the efforts
9 against climate change to the Allied efforts in the
10 Second World War. I appreciated this comparison
11 because before I was a pastor, I spent 16 years in
12 the US Army. And I had the privilege to teach
13 military history at West Point. And so I understand
14 the unprecedented mobilization that our nation
15 undertook during World War II, not just in the sense
16 of fighting on land, at sea, and in the air, but in
17 our society, our culture, our industry. Everything
18 was focused on it. Nothing was more important than
19 winning the war, and that's what we need to do now
20 with climate change. And participating in RGGI is a
21 part of that. It's a flexible and proven way of
22 reducing our carbon emissions, which are among the
23 highest in the nation. It's something that we
24 already know works, is widely supported by over 70
25 percent of voters, and has concrete benefits for our

1 neighbors, whether they are those neighbors in need
2 of good, clean energy jobs, protection from
3 pollution, or simply hope for a vibrant future.

4 And speaking of loving our neighbors
5 and in conclusion, in preparing for this hearing, I
6 was struck by a map showing current RGGI states,
7 with Pennsylvania in the center between our
8 neighboring states of New York and New England to
9 the north and Virginia and Maryland to the south.
10 It reminded me, given my background in military
11 history, how our state got its nickname of the
12 Keystone State during the American Revolution.
13 Pennsylvania was in a critical position in the
14 center of the original 13 states geographically,
15 economically, politically, and militarily, and
16 today, I would add, environmentally. So let's be
17 the Keystone State again.

18 May grace and peace be with you all
19 and thanks again.

20 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Pastor
21 Metzloff.

22 Next up, we have Number 16, Carolyn
23 Moseley. Do we have Carolyn on the line?

24 MR. JAGIELA: She's not on the line,
25 Jessica.

1 MS. SHIRLEY: Okay. So then we will
2 go to Number 17, Anya Tewari. Do we have Anya?

3 MS. TEWARI: Hi, yeah. I'm here.

4 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Anya. Go ahead and
5 you can start.

6 MS. TEWARI: Hi. Good afternoon. My
7 name is Anya Tewari and I'm speaking today on behalf
8 of myself as a private citizen. I currently live in
9 Philadelphia, but my family is from India and I
10 visit as often as I can.

11 I've seen there firsthand how climate
12 change is already starting to take effect in those
13 areas by changing weather patterns causing more
14 extreme monsoons and floods, which destroy crops and
15 peoples' homes. So it's very apparent to me that
16 we're having a climate crisis right now and need to
17 take immediate action to combat and mitigate the
18 effects however we can.

19 I'm here today to give testimony on
20 the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ruling. I
21 believe that Pennsylvania should participate in RGGI
22 for the good of the climate and its citizens.
23 Joining RGGI is key to Pennsylvania lowering
24 pollution, fighting climate change, and providing
25 better quality of life for Pennsylvanians today.

1 Multiple analyses have shown that Pennsylvania is
2 the fifth dirtiest power sector in the nation and
3 that joining RGGI would provide benefits such as
4 tackling emissions, generating an economy growth,
5 saving consumers money, and improving public health.

6 First of all, joining RGGI would
7 ensure a 25 percent carbon pollution reduction from
8 2022 to 2030 in the state's power sector. Without
9 RGGI, Pennsylvania's carbon emissions are projected
10 to increase by the middle of the decade. Immediate
11 action is critical to help the state reach its
12 greenhouse gas emission target.

13 Economically speaking, participation
14 in RGGI will increase - will result in an increase
15 of jobs in Pennsylvania and add \$1.9 billion to the
16 gross pay product. According to the reports
17 released by the Wolf administration in August 2020,
18 energy sector provided 269,031 jobs or 4.5 percent
19 of the overall state-wide workforce as of the last
20 quarter of 2019. The clean energy sector showed an
21 average job growth rate of 8.7 percent or nearly
22 double that, adding 7,794 jobs. And there's 7,794
23 jobs in 2017 to 2019. Market forces suggest that
24 natural gas will continue to replace coal as a low-
25 cost energy source in the next decade. RGGI can

1 make sure that we can reduce emissions while
2 increasing the creation of clean energy jobs. RGGI
3 can lead to an expansion of the state's 90,000 plus
4 clean energy jobs, which have grown to outnumber
5 those in the fossil fuel industry already and
6 position the state as a leader in the clean energy
7 economy.

8 And then aside far as job creation, it
9 will also save consumers money. Current data from
10 states already participating in the program asserted
11 that the average residential electricity bill in
12 RGGI states will be 35 percent lower in 2031 than it
13 was in 2017. This would place PA on a path to
14 having a cleaner, healthier economy.

15 Additionally, the participation in
16 RGGI could generate massive health benefits for
17 Pennsylvanians. As pollution from power plants have
18 gone down, residents in the northeast are now
19 experiencing significantly fewer premature deaths,
20 heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses.

21 So I hope that these facts proved to
22 you that Pennsylvania would receive numerous
23 benefits from participating in RGGI and should do so
24 immediately. From my own experience, I can tell you
25 that climate change is real and we are seeing the

1 effects of this crisis right now. RGGI is a
2 flexible and proven cap-and-invest program that will
3 allow the State to reduce carbon emissions from the
4 power sector in a simply, cost-effective way. There
5 is no reason why we should oppose a program that
6 would only reduce emissions, stimulate the economy,
7 create jobs, and benefit the health of PA citizens.
8 Again, I believe it is in the best interest of
9 everyone that the DEP move deliberately and quickly
10 on the RGGI rule in interest of real and meaningful
11 climate action. Thank you for your time.

12 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Anya.

13 Next up, we have Number 18, Riley
14 Spahr. Do we have Riley?

15 MR. SPAHR: Yes.

16 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Riley.

17 MR. SPAHR: Hello.

18 Good afternoon and thank you for
19 giving me a few minutes to speak today. My name is
20 Riley Spahr and I'm here both as a representative of
21 Defend Our Future and a resident of Harrisburg, PA.

22 I'm here today to advocate for the
23 inclusion of Pennsylvania into the RGGI program or
24 RGGI. I voice my concerns about the current state
25 of our climate to anyone that would listen,

1 including friends, family, and people in my
2 community. I am all too aware of hazards imposed by
3 air pollution to our community here and around the
4 country. The changing climate and the consequences
5 we are already starting to see from them are very
6 dangerous and very apparent.

7 So I would just like to start with a
8 little bit of a story. It's something that my
9 mother always tells me. Every time she watches the
10 news, she just tells me how frightened she is about
11 our future and the future of our planet. She always
12 - every time the news comes on and there's, like, a
13 wild fire or a natural disaster, another slash to
14 our environmental funding, or withdraw from programs
15 like the Paris Climate Accord, and just the country
16 avoiding the impending problems of climate change,
17 she just tells me that this is her planet, this is
18 her kid's planet, this is her grandkid's planet, and
19 so on. And she's not alone in these sentiments, and
20 many of us in Pennsylvania feel the exact same way.

21 It is crucial that we bolster
22 environmental protection legislation and incorporate
23 programs like RGGI as quickly as possible. Because
24 carbon pollution poses the biggest threat to our
25 environment and is the main contributor to climate

1 change, it is imperative that we act now and
2 encourage all of our elected and appointed federal
3 leaders to share this. RGGI is a program designed
4 to cap and reduce CO2 emissions from the power
5 sector. RGGI and programs like it can lead to the
6 expansion of the already 90,000 clean energy jobs in
7 Pennsylvania created from data in 2019. This would
8 also put Pennsylvania in a lead position in the
9 clean energy economy.

10 So through RGGI, states sell nearly
11 all emission allowances through auctions and invest
12 proceeds into energy efficiency as well as renewable
13 energy and other further consumer benefit programs.
14 In turn, this boosts the clean energy economy and
15 creates clean jobs in the RGGI states.

16 Furthermore, air pollution reductions
17 generated by RGGI, shown in a Columbia study, also
18 referenced by people before, but still very
19 pertinent, showed a reduced impact to children's
20 health, including asthma, pre-term births, and low
21 birth weights, estimating a total health cost savings
22 of 350 million. So not only is RGGI immensely
23 beneficial to our environment, but it is also
24 profoundly beneficial to the economy, job creation,
25 and long-lasting health impacts for children,

1 elders, and those with compromising, pre-existing
2 conditions.

3 Once again, I would like to thank you
4 for your time and holding this important hearing.
5 And have a wonderful day.

6 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Riley.

7 Next up, we have Number 19, Brooke
8 Petry.

9 MS. PETRY: Hi. Can you hear me?

10 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you.

11 MS. PETRY: Okay.

12 Hello. My name is Brooke Petry and I
13 am the Southeastern Pennsylvania Field Organizer for
14 Mom's Clean Air Force. I am testifying today on
15 behalf of Mom's Clean Air Force's Pennsylvania
16 chapter and also on behalf of myself and my family.
17 I am a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where
18 I live with my partner and our 11-year-old daughter.
19 And thank you for the opportunity to give testimony
20 during this hearing.

21 I am testifying today to voice my
22 support for Pennsylvania to link with the Regional
23 Greenhouse Gas Initiative swiftly and without delay.
24 One of the Commonwealth's largest contributors to
25 greenhouse gas emission of carbon dioxide is the

1 power sector, coal and natural gas power plants that
2 generate electricity. Pennsylvania's power sector
3 is the fifth dirtiest in the nation, and there are
4 currently no limits on the amount of carbon dioxide
5 that power plants spew into the air. Coal plants
6 emit the most hazardous air pollution in the air
7 sector, and Pennsylvania is home to six of them.
8 They are major contributors to the State's climate
9 pollution.

10 Pennsylvania clearly has an enormous
11 responsibility to lead the charge in reducing carbon
12 pollution from our power sector to address the
13 health hazards of air pollution and mitigate the
14 impact of climate change on our children's health
15 and future.

16 My South Philadelphia community knows
17 all too well the impact that polluting industries
18 can have on families, as we live only a few miles
19 from the now shuttered Philadelphia Energy Solutions
20 Oil Refinery that polluted our city for more than
21 100 years and about a mile from a busy interstate.

22 Our air quality is consistently poor,
23 which for me and my family, is a source of constant
24 concern. My 11-year-old daughter and I both suffer
25 from asthma, which is made worse by air pollution as

1 well as extreme heat, another symptom of the climate
2 crisis. On extremely hot days and days with poor air
3 quality, I often question whether it's okay for my
4 daughter to go outside even with a short walk with
5 friends.

6 The COVID-19 crisis has made us
7 particularly concerned for our health, as we could
8 suffer more severe impacts of the virus because of
9 our asthma diagnosis and the poor quality of the air
10 we breathe each day. Here in Philadelphia, the
11 childhood asthma rate is more than twice the
12 national average and more than 40 percent of kids,
13 including my own, with asthma report missed days of
14 school due to asthma complications. Nationwide,
15 complications from asthma account for more than 10
16 million lost school days each year and is the third
17 leading cause of hospitalization among kids.

18 Even before the pandemic struck, I
19 worked to balance my daughter's physical health with
20 her emotional health, which has come into laser
21 focus as we continue to grapple with COVID-19
22 pandemic, remote learning, and lack of normal
23 socialization due to quarantines and the safety
24 measures that keep us safe.

25 We know that Pennsylvanians across the

1 state are demanding bold climate action. Cutting
2 pollution from the power sector to a program like
3 RGGI is a step in the right direction. Inaction is
4 already putting families, children, and other
5 frontline communities at risk.

6 I can't control the air that my child
7 breathes, so I depend on agencies like the DEP to
8 enact the strongest policies possible to protect her
9 health and future. I urge you to move quickly to
10 link Pennsylvania to the Regional Greenhouse Gas
11 Initiative to help ensure a healthy future for my
12 daughter and for all children across the
13 Commonwealth. Thank you.

14 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Brooke.

15 Next up, we have Zachary Barber.

16 Darek, do we have Zachary on the line?

17 MR. JAGIELA: No, we do not.

18 MS. SHIRLEY: Okay.

19 Next up, Number 21, Morgan Folger.

20 MS. FOLGER: Hi. Can you hear me?

21 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

22 Go ahead, Morgan.

23 MS. FOLGER: Hi. So my name is Morgan
24 Folger. I live in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. And I am
25 testifying on behalf of Environment America, where I

1 work on our global warming solutions team. And our
2 mission is to transform the power of our
3 imaginations and our ideas into change that makes
4 our world a greener and healthier place for all.

5 Environment America, in our network of
6 STEAM-based environmental groups across the region,
7 have supported the Regional Greenhouse Gas
8 Initiative since its inception. From the start,
9 it's been a critical program to hold polluters
10 accountable and create revenue for clean energy and
11 energy efficiency projects that benefit the public
12 and the environment.

13 This bipartisan cooperation between
14 the states is a success story, and the pollution
15 targets have consistently been met ahead of
16 schedule. From 2008 through 2018, carbon pollution
17 has decreased by 47 percent in the states that
18 participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
19 Initiative, which has outpaced the rest of the
20 country by 90 percent. And to date, the Regional
21 Greenhouse Gas Initiative has raised over \$2.5
22 billion in the participating states for programs
23 that reduce global warming pollution and also
24 helping with direct bill assistance.

25 Pennsylvania should not pass up this

1 opportunity to reap the benefits of clean air,
2 climate action, and revenue to support a cleaner,
3 greener future for our energy production in the
4 state.

5 We must address global warming to
6 preserve our planet for future generations. Our
7 kids shouldn't have to suffer from more extreme
8 weather events and more unhealthy air days tomorrow
9 just because we failed to do everything we could
10 today. As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse
11 gas pollution in the nation, Pennsylvania has a
12 responsibility to be a leader in implementing
13 solutions to global warming and in reducing
14 emissions.

15 The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
16 is already one of the nation's most successful
17 pollution-cutting programs. And by becoming a part
18 of this bigger regional effort, Pennsylvania can
19 work with and learn from the successes of other
20 leaders and states from Maine down to Virginia.

21 It will get easier to ramp down global
22 warming pollution as the revenue starts to come in
23 for the energy efficiency, solar, wind, and other
24 energy projects that can reduce our reliance on
25 fossil fuels. The Regional Greenhouse Gas

1 Initiative is projected to bring over \$2 billion
2 into Pennsylvania's economy over the next decade.

3 Not only can we start to meet the
4 challenge of global warming, we also will protect
5 our citizens from harmful air pollution that impacts
6 our health. Environment America's trouble in the
7 air report shows that widespread air pollution is
8 rampant in our country. In 2018, the Harrisburg,
9 Lebanon, and Lancaster communities in Pennsylvania
10 experienced more than 100 days of elevated air
11 pollution. That's more than three months of
12 breathing in air that impacts health today,
13 including respiratory illness, heart attack, stroke,
14 cancer, and mental health problems.

15 But by joining RGGI, we can
16 significantly improve air quality and reduce
17 pollution from sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and
18 particulate matter that harms our health. In
19 particular, pollution from nitrogen oxide is
20 expected to drop by 112,000 tons and pollution from
21 sulfur dioxide is expected to drop by 67,000 tons
22 over the next decade if Pennsylvania joins.

23 Pennsylvania joining this Regional
24 Greenhouse Gas Initiative will bring so many
25 benefits. It will help us curb pollution that's

1 harming our health, our environment, and our climate
2 while also helping us raise revenue to invest in the
3 clean energy transition. There's no reason to delay
4 taking action. So let's join the Regional
5 Greenhouse Gas Initiative today.

6 Thank you so much for the opportunity
7 to testify.

8 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Morgan.

9 Next up, we have Pam Kosty.

10 MS. KOSTY: Hi, I'm here. Can you
11 hear me?

12 MS. SHIRLEY: We can hear you, Pam.

13 MS. KOSTY: Okay, great.

14 So I'm from Havertown, PA. Thank you
15 for the chance to provide my perspective on
16 Pennsylvania's opportunity to join the Regional
17 Greenhouse Gas Initiative and thereby join the
18 growing consortium of states determined to be part
19 of the solution to climate change crisis that faces
20 our state, country, and planet.

21 I come to this meeting to provide
22 testimony as a citizen of Pennsylvania, a daughter,
23 mother, and sister, wife, and friend. I speak on
24 behalf of the Environmental Justice Team of the
25 Mainline Unitarian Church, supported by UU Justice

1 PA, a growing group of faith-based organizations,
2 some of them I've heard here, that are part of
3 Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light.

4 As an environmental advocate, I've
5 spent a good deal of time learning about our current
6 climate crisis, about pollution in our air and
7 water, about RGGI, its formation, goals, and early
8 successes in the states that have signed on. We are
9 fortunate to have a lot of scientific and economic
10 evidence in hand from states who have been early
11 leaders in RGGI, where progress to reduce
12 destructive emissions has been made and economies
13 have actually been strengthened. I trust that many
14 people will share those details in upcoming
15 testimony.

16 The primary testimony I want to
17 provide here is the moral faith-based voice, which
18 is growing in the state across this country. This
19 voice demands that we look at the dire environmental
20 situation we face, one that human beings have
21 wittingly and unwittingly had big hands in creating.
22 It demands that we acknowledge where we are, the
23 consequences we are already seeing across this
24 planet, and the harsh reality that our children,
25 grandchildren, and generations that follow will

1 increasingly bear if we do nothing. It is a voice
2 that calls us all to action.

3 I'll be honest, I don't really want to
4 co-chair my church's environmental justice team.
5 I'd rather be out biking. But I cannot bear witness
6 to degradation of this planet and the
7 disproportionate suffering, the pollution and
8 climate change, specifically cause poor and
9 disenfranchised people, and look away. Genuine
10 faith in whatever place we find it, calls us to bear
11 witness and to act with and for each other while
12 there is time. So why are we even here weighing the
13 sides of positive action and inaction.

14 For too long, I think we've framed
15 this issue as one of either/or. Either we have
16 environmental justice or we have jobs for
17 Pennsylvanians. I see inaction in Harrisburg when
18 after a rally I attended with environmentalists, I
19 watched as a group of men rallied to stop our agenda
20 and keep their jobs. And I feel for these men and
21 for the wives and children, their fears and hopes
22 for a good life.

23 As a Unitarian, I study at the wisdom
24 of many religious traditions. The Buddhists have a
25 term right livelihood. It means meaningful work

1 with minimal harm to others. There was a time we
2 may have believed that working coal, oil, gas was
3 right livelihood, but we know too much about the
4 pollution caused to workers and neighboring
5 communities, greenhouse gas emissions that are
6 effecting the entire planet, to believe that
7 anymore. As people of faith, we cannot pretend. We
8 need to act to make changes with courage and
9 compassion. We need the best of the polarities:
10 environmental justice and meaningful livelihood.
11 And we need to bring our resources to bear as we
12 transition to a just future economy, one where
13 government, businesses, our education system work in
14 tandem.

15 The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
16 isn't a solution, but it's a great step towards the
17 emission straw-down that we hold to our loved ones
18 and future generations. Thankfully, we already know
19 it works. Nine other states have joined since 2009,
20 enjoying economic growth, not loss, outpacing the
21 rest of the US by 31 percent while carbon emissions
22 by their power plants have fallen by 47 percent.
23 Those states are looking to the future we all
24 deserve to have, where polluters, not citizens, pay
25 their fair share, and green energy businesses get a

1 leg up.

2 Imagine a Pennsylvania where we focus
3 on jobs for the future, not the past, and prioritize
4 the health of our children and generations to come.
5 Let's do more than imagine. Let's make it happen.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Pam.

8 Next up, we have Number 23, Meredith
9 Hegg.

10 MS. HEGG: Hi. I re-muted myself on
11 accident. Thank you.

12 My name is Meredith Hegg. I live in
13 Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania. I have twin six-
14 year-olds and every day I look at their faces and
15 wonder what I will say to them when they're old
16 enough to understand the magnitude of the climate
17 crisis. For now, we just talk about the importance
18 of clean air and clean water and how we should all
19 work together to make the world a better place. I'm
20 absolutely dreading the day when they will begin to
21 understand what a mess they're inheriting from their
22 parent's and grandparent's generations.

23 I'm here today to support
24 Pennsylvania's entry into RGGI, the provisional
25 greenhouse gas initiative. As a major emitter of

1 carbon dioxide, Pennsylvania has an essential role
2 to play in reducing emissions and moving us toward a
3 more livable world. The beauty of policies like
4 RGGI, as some others have pointed out, is that they
5 expose the myth that environmental policies must
6 hurt the economy. States in RGGI have economically
7 outperformed the rest of the country, all while
8 reducing emissions and saving lives.

9 RGGI would also generate revenue that
10 we desperately need to address our aging
11 infrastructure in Pennsylvania. With RGGI, we can
12 improve our productivity and efficiency while
13 creating 27,000 new jobs. Clean energy and energy
14 efficiency jobs already outnumber fossil fuel jobs
15 in Pennsylvania. Let's accelerate that trend and
16 put Pennsylvanians to work.

17 We have the capacity to be a world
18 leader in energy and other areas, but we will miss
19 that opportunity if we don't act sooner. Please
20 make Pennsylvania part of the energy future. Thank
21 you for this opportunity.

22 MS. SHIRLEY: All right. Thank you,
23 Meredith.

24 And next up, we have Number 24, and I
25 am going to butcher this despite having six years of

1 French about 20 years ago. Lucie Lebourgeois?

2 MS. LEBOURGEOIS: Yes. Can you hear
3 me okay?

4 MS. SHIRLEY: Okay. How did I do?

5 MS. LEBOURGEOIS: Yeah, it's Lucie
6 Lebourgeois (changes pronunciation). Close enough.

7 MS. SHIRLEY: I was close. All right.
8 Thanks, Lucie.

9 MS. LEBOURGEOIS: Sure.

10 Hi. My name is Lucie Lebourgeois. I
11 am 20 years old, and I am from Delaware County.

12 Learning about and advocating for the
13 environment has been a passion of mine for a few
14 years now. I feel a personal obligation to give
15 everyone an equal chance to experience a clean
16 environment free of pollution, regardless of age,
17 race, gender, and socioeconomic status. I attend
18 the George Washington University, where I am
19 pursuing a minor in sustainability, and from my
20 studies, I have truly grasped the urgency of climate
21 change and that, as humans, we are responsible for
22 acting now to save what is left of our earth.

23 As the fourth largest emitter of
24 greenhouse gases in the country, Pennsylvania is
25 definitely culpable for contributing to the warming

1 of our planet and increasing air and water pollution
2 in our State. However, it is not too late for us to
3 reduce our carbon emissions.

4 The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
5 is an excellent start to start reducing our
6 pollution and transitioning to a more sustainable
7 climate. By joining RGGI, we will collaborate with
8 the northeast and mid-Atlantic states to reduce
9 carbon emissions that pollute our air. So far, the
10 states who have joined this program have already
11 seen an indisputable decrease in carbon pollution,
12 outpacing the rest of the country by 90 percent.
13 Joining this program would lead to two billion
14 dollars in lifetime energy bill savings and a huge
15 amount of electricity use avoided, which is
16 equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of 2.1
17 million vehicles each year. The results of this
18 program will put us on the path of combatting
19 climate change.

20 We have to stop choosing corporation
21 profits over the health and wellbeing of our people.
22 We have to stop allocating our government money to
23 tax breaks and subsidies for power plants. We
24 literally have the solutions to slow down the
25 detrimental effects of climate change, but there are

1 too many greedy, rich people in the PA legislature
2 too focused on bribes from coal lobbyists to
3 actually put money, time, and effort into renewable
4 energy. There are millions of people across the
5 east coast and our neighboring states from both
6 parties strongly support RGGI and have seen positive
7 results from it.

8 So now it is Pennsylvania's turn to
9 join them in this program. The results and the
10 science don't lie. Let's join RGGI to promote a
11 livable climate for all Pennsylvanians and for the
12 generations that follow. Let us prioritize the
13 people, the environment, the animals, and our
14 wellbeing. Thank you for your time.

15 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Lucie.

16 Next up, we have Number 25, Cathy
17 Chamblee. Do we have Cathy on the line?

18 DR. CHAMBLEE: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

20 Go ahead.

21 DR. CHAMBLEE: Great.

22 Distinguished panel members, thank you
23 for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Dr.
24 Cathy Chamblee, and I live in Springfield, Delaware
25 County. And I'm speaking today as a private

1 citizen.

2 My family and I moved to Pennsylvania
3 20 years ago, amazed by the beauty of the area that
4 greeted us. Our neighborhood was full of old growth
5 trees, some of them here when William Penn arrived.
6 I helped neighbors plant trees during our township's
7 environmental initiatives, and I helped keep a
8 Chester Ridley Crum Watershed clean through local
9 creek clean-up days.

10 But this home has changed over 20
11 years. Our state emitted more carbon pollution in
12 2015 than 172 of 194 Paris Climate Agreement member
13 nations. In this metro area, 79 percent of carbon
14 emissions come from industrial abusers and the
15 electricity that powers them. Every single county
16 in my Philadelphia area has received an F on the
17 American Lung Association's 2020 State of the Air
18 report for unhealthy ozone levels, all due to
19 greenhouse gases. We are nationally ranked fourth
20 for asthma-related ER visits and death rates,
21 particularly for people of color. And for me, it's
22 not even a 10-minute drive to find neighborhoods in
23 economic distress. Fully 33 percent of
24 Philadelphians struggle to pay their utility bills.

25 In my past, I helped to protect

1 Pennsylvania's trees and waterways, but today I am
2 here to protect our air by speaking in support of
3 Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas
4 Initiative. Participating RGGI states have cut
5 their carbon pollution nearly in half, further
6 surpassing the rest of the country by 90 percent.
7 RGGI has created a net economic benefit of \$4.3
8 billion to its member states, including significant
9 job growth, and it has grown participating states'
10 economies 31 percent faster than non-RGGI states.

11 The cleaner air in participating
12 states resulted in six billion dollars in saved
13 healthcare costs alone between 2009 and 2014.
14 Investments for RGGI have resulted in renewable
15 energy measures, climate protection programs, and
16 energy bill assistance to struggling residents.
17 Pennsylvania's participation could double RGGI's
18 environmental benefits simply because our power
19 sector is so large, reducing carbon pollution by at
20 least 30 percent by 2030.

21 I close by asking you to forget for a
22 moment your official capacity in these hearings. If
23 you were a person of faith, as I am, I ask you to
24 consider how joining RGGI is a change to live out
25 your faith. Faith teaches us the importance of

1 loving ones neighbor. How can I help my
2 neighborhood when I knowingly allow the air he
3 breathes to cause him relentless asthma attacks that
4 imperil his life. And how can I expect to share
5 God's light and warmth with my neighbor when I know
6 she lives in cold and darkness because she cannot
7 afford her utility bill?

8 Loving our neighbors not only means
9 caring for their souls, it means caring for their
10 air, water, and land. Joining RGGI is a huge
11 opportunity to do the right thing in several ways
12 for the neighbors we say we care about. We are not
13 absolved of our responsibility to act simply because
14 other states are not yet doing so.

15 I remember this quote from Saint-
16 Exupery's The Little Prince. What is essential is
17 invisible to the eyes. Let's take care of our air,
18 an invisible essential upon which every living thing
19 depends. Let's join RGGI. Thank you for your time
20 today.

21 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Cathy.

22 Next up, we have Richard Tolin.

23 MR. TOLIN: Hello. My name is Richard
24 Tolin. I live in Villanova, Pennsylvania. And I'm
25 representing myself and my family.

1 I urge you all to support RGGI because
2 it will benefit Pennsylvania in multiple ways. It
3 will result in increased employment, dramatically
4 reduce healthcare costs, provide an opportunity to
5 address environmental and economic injustice, and
6 most importantly, will make Pennsylvania a safer and
7 healthier place to live.

8 As a physician, I have seen firsthand
9 not only how our several crises have converged but
10 so have the solutions. Exposure to air pollution
11 increases the incidents of heart and lung disease,
12 and it also increases the COVID death rate.
13 Communities of color and low income wage earners
14 have greater exposure to air pollution.

15 Reduction in the use of fossil fuels
16 is the single most important thing that we can do to
17 reduce the health - to reduce the cost of healthcare
18 for all while simultaneously addressing
19 environmental and health inequities.

20 According to EPA models, joining RGGI
21 would result in improved air quality that would
22 result, by 2030, in avoidance of between three and
23 six billion dollars in healthcare expenditures. But
24 those expenditures reflect many thousands or fewer
25 children with asthma, 85,000 fewer lost work days,

1 over 600 avoided premature deaths.

2 And as impressive as they are, these
3 statistics underestimate the health code benefits of
4 RGGI because the models do not take into
5 consideration the secondary impacts of stress,
6 mental health, loss of insurance due to illness and
7 disability. And furthermore, they do not consider
8 the compounding effects of the health impacts of
9 fracking, mining, and climate change itself, all of
10 which will be favorably impacted by RGGI.

11 EPA models tell us the nearly 50
12 percent reduction in the use of fossil fuels for
13 electricity puts in Pennsylvania's over a billion
14 dollars a year in healthcare costs. RGGI will move
15 us in that direction. When the opponents of RGGI
16 ask you to think of the workers who may be
17 negatively impacted by a change in the economy, our
18 response should be to protect those people and
19 communities by strengthening our support systems and
20 targeting the money raised by sale of carbon credits
21 not by abandoning the greater good.

22 And to the impact on quality of life
23 for the child with asthma who, because we joined
24 RGGI, won't be needing frequent ER visits. Think
25 not only of those who avoid serious illness, think

1 also of the benefits to their families, employers,
2 and employees.

3 Think of the quality of life for our
4 grandchildren who may be condemned to live in a less
5 hospitable world with climate change not as
6 aggressively addressed. Robert F. Kennedy once said
7 that the gross national product includes the guy who
8 has been stealing in our jail cells but not the joy
9 in our children's play. The direct economic
10 benefits of RGGI are important and justify its
11 approval, but there's so much more at stake than
12 just the energy economy. Thank you.

13 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Richard.

14 Next up, we have Danette Richards.

15 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, I'm here.

16 MS. SHIRLEY: Go ahead, Danette.

17 MS. RICHARDS: Hi. Very, very glad to
18 be here. My name is Danette Richards and I am
19 testifying as a private citizen.

20 But I would like to start by saying,
21 which I came upon a few years ago, the Environmental
22 Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution,
23 and that states that people have a right to clean
24 air, pure water, and to the preservation of the
25 natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of

1 the environment. I think they're words we really do
2 need to live by.

3 I grew up in northern Pennsylvania and
4 lived through the Agnes flood and underground coal
5 fires. Maybe that is one reason why I am testifying
6 here today. I had an introduction to the power of
7 the environment early in my life, and I have never
8 forgotten it. As an adult, I live in southeastern
9 Pennsylvania. I have always had a love of the
10 outdoors and have been an avid vegetable gardener.
11 I have been an educator, and I retired a few years
12 ago. I live in Horsham and have also been impacted
13 by the PVOS contamination at the nearby air base.
14 That has certainly motivated me to once again look
15 at our environment and the manmade problems we are
16 creating, resulting in illnesses and major property
17 damage.

18 That being said, sadly, as I was
19 putting together my thoughts for today's testimony,
20 I was notified of severe weather in my hometown and
21 my daughter was warned of a potential tornado near
22 her home. One did touch down, with winds
23 approximately 75 miles per hour, which caused much
24 damage. A tornado at the end of November, almost
25 December? Besides that, very recently, there were

1 tornados a few months past in both Doylestown and
2 Newtown, Bucks County. I think we all know what is
3 happening. I can't remember this kind of severe
4 weather being so commonplace.

5 I have also been a vegetable gardener
6 for about 30 years. I have seen changes in the
7 timeline a garden can be planted and in the weeks
8 you can still expect vegetables from your garden. I
9 believe I read recently that my area of PA will have
10 temps more in line with some southern states due to
11 climate change. I honestly can't believe this, nor
12 do I want this to be the case.

13 I remember cold winter weather growing
14 up as a kid in northern Pennsylvania. It was fun to
15 build igloos and have snowball fights. Even though
16 we never did consistently have that kind of winter
17 here, in my experiences, in southern Pennsylvania,
18 the last few years, you can get along without a
19 heavier winter coat.

20 It saddens me that there are climate
21 deniers that choose not to believe or, for maybe
22 political or financial reasons, choose not to
23 believe in science. This is confusing to me. I
24 recently read the book A Triumph of Doubt by David
25 Michaels. It really highlights the extent

1 corporations or politicians have gone to raise
2 uncertainty in peoples' minds about things that can
3 hurt them, like smoking. It took a long time to get
4 that warning label on cigarettes. It seems that for
5 years, there has been a concerted effort to steer
6 people away from the truth about various scientific
7 realities.

8 I fear that if we don't acknowledge
9 and act on what we know to be true, that the future
10 for our children and their children will be bleak.
11 This denial has taken on a life of its own. One
12 thing I do know, young people get that we are at a
13 crossroads, and honestly, no action is seen by them
14 as not caring for either their physical or mental
15 health. I hear these perspectives from my own
16 children. I have heard young people say, why should
17 I have children, the earth will be so messed up.

18 I have volunteered for the Center for
19 Excellence in Environmental Toxicology out of Penn.
20 I was part of a program to help bring awareness to
21 the air quality in and around Philadelphia public
22 schools. As we have heard before, many intercity
23 children have asthma and have more difficult
24 problems when the weather gets hotter and stagnates.
25 Philadelphia, for instance, has two or three times

1 higher asthma rates than the Commonwealth of
2 Pennsylvania. And the pandemic is worsened by that.

3 I would like to end by saying that the
4 overarching theme that needs to be stressed here is
5 that we need to make health central in our thinking.
6 Climate action is a prescription for health, and we
7 need to focus on that. And we will really need to
8 live by the Amendment to our Pennsylvania
9 Constitution. Thank you very much and I am very
10 thankful to be a part of this testimony.

11 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Danette.

12 Number 29 has removed themselves from
13 the testifiers list, so we have Number 30, George
14 Stern. Do we have George on the line?

15 MR. STERN: Can you hear me?

16 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

17 MR. STERN: Okay. Great.

18 So, good afternoon. I am Rabbi George
19 Stern. I was raised in Philadelphia and I returned
20 to the city in 2001 to lead the Neighborhood
21 Interfaith Movement.

22 I thank you for this opportunity to
23 address the Commonwealth's proposed inclusion in the
24 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. And bipartisan
25 support in other states aboard this initiative has

1 lead every other northeast state, except for
2 Pennsylvania, to sign on already.

3 I have the good fortune of living in a
4 less polluted, wooded area of the city. As part of
5 my work in support of early childhood education,
6 however, I've traveled extensively through
7 neighborhoods like Point Breeze, where all our oil
8 refineries spew toxins in air for decades, sickening
9 many adults and children. I've worked with families
10 living near power plants and in neighborhoods with
11 high levels of asthma, which damages the physical
12 and mental health of children and slows their
13 academic achievement.

14 All reputable scientists point to
15 greenhouse gas emissions as major contributors both
16 to ill health and to global warming and climate
17 change, effecting every citizen here, across the
18 Commonwealth, and throughout the world. I'm
19 thrilled, therefore, that Governor Wolf seeks to
20 have Pennsylvania join the RGGI.

21 I'm especially enthusiastic about RGGI
22 because of its many win-win consequences. It
23 encourages a gradual shift to green energy, creating
24 new investment in jobs while bringing new sources of
25 revenue that the state can invest to speed ships

1 towards a greener, healthier future.

2 Pennsylvania lags behind most states
3 in job creation and in recovering from the pandemic
4 recession. RGGI states have outpaced others in
5 academic growth by almost a third. One estimate
6 suggests that RGGI could create 27,000 jobs in
7 Pennsylvania, potentially lifting more families out
8 of poverty. And fourth, carbon emission reduction
9 improves the health of children and adults and the
10 planet. In other words, RGGI is a comprehensive,
11 holistic approach that responds to multiple
12 challenges simultaneously.

13 RGGI's regional scale ensures
14 successful outcomes, and we've had states already in
15 the project that have already seen. It has a proven
16 track record of reducing carbon emissions, thereby
17 slowing climate change's threats to the wellbeing of
18 Pennsylvanians and people everywhere. Last week's
19 tornado in Montgomery County is a local example of
20 effects of climate change.

21 More frightening are the ever-deadlier
22 and costly hurricanes, the devastating forest fires
23 across the country, and the rising ocean levels that
24 already threaten cities like New York and Miami and
25 that will eventually flood parts of Philadelphia

1 along the Title, Delaware, and Schuylkill Rivers.
2 It's in Pennsylvania's self-interest to join RGGI
3 and reduce carbon emissions.

4 Indeed, since Pennsylvania is the
5 fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the
6 US, joining RGGI would align us with states that
7 have accepted the moral imperative to slow climate
8 change and ensure a better future for generations to
9 come. I look forward to Pennsylvania becoming an
10 enthusiastic member of RGGI, and thank you for this
11 opportunity to testify.

12 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Rabbi Stern.
13 Next up, we have Number 31, Kenda
14 Hammer.

15 MS. HAMMER: Good day. Yes, I'm here.

16 MS. SHIRLEY: Hello.

17 MS. HAMMER: Hi. My name is Kenda
18 Hammer and I live in Richland Township of Alleghany
19 County with my husband. We are proud parents of two
20 now adult advocates of RGGI too. I'm a Career Links
21 early educator in the Fox Chapel School District and
22 also at Pitt as clinical teaching faculty member,
23 beginning 2009. I present to you on behalf of a
24 thousand plus students I have been privileged to
25 teach.

1 As a student of child development, I
2 graduated from the same program as Fred Rogers. I'm
3 a lifelong learner, founding/chairing an arts board
4 and collaboration team-building coach. Teaching has
5 energized me since my own student teaching at
6 Sharpsburg Elementary, a low income environmental
7 justice community.

8 From the very start, I embraced
9 teaching in outdoor settings. By doing so, I
10 promote healthiness and a love of the environment.
11 Activities I've lead are creaking at Camp Guyasuta,
12 pontoon boating on the Alleghany River from
13 Sharpsburg to Pittsburgh with Ranger Mike, hiking at
14 Beachwood Farms, whole family bicycling rails to
15 trails Millvale to PNC Park, Carl Elementary garden,
16 story time with a 2008 Pennsylvania one book Up,
17 Down and Around by Pittsburgh author Kathy Ayres.

18 The positivity of engagement outdoors
19 resounds me and my students and is documented in
20 books. Those sources, however, also unfortunately
21 tell the perils of pollution and climate change. To
22 learn more, seek the works of David Sobel in
23 Childhood and Nature and Richard Louv in Last Child
24 in the Woods.

25 As you and I experience, when we're

1 walking outdoors, our breathing deepens. Yet that
2 alone impacts us negatively, since particulates
3 present in the air enter our airways.

4 This is especially true also because
5 Pennsylvania is one of the largest carbon polluters
6 in the country. The futures of young kids like my
7 students, who are among the most vulnerable to these
8 toxins, are threatened by climate change. They will
9 be impacted in Pennsylvania with the negative
10 results of climate change here, including dangerous
11 heat waves, changing seasons, destructive flooding,
12 in fact, like in the river community Sharpsburg at
13 my family literacy center in 2004 due to Hurricane
14 Ivan, landslides - combine with these dangers in
15 their future.

16 While RGGI is first and foremost a
17 program to combat climate change by cutting carbon
18 emissions, joining RGGI would also have added
19 benefits for our health by reducing other forms of
20 harmful air/water pollution. I have a firsthand,
21 undeniable view from students and schools. It
22 provides a collective look at climate change-related
23 health problems.

24 Others here testifying today have
25 named respiratory diseases like asthma. I add an

1 associated outcome of asthma that can actually be
2 seen through the dramatically increased number of
3 life-saving inhalers prescribed. In 2013, at the
4 High Five Kindergarten Kick-off at the Allegheny
5 Intermediate Unit Number Three, I heard the school
6 nurse's keynote that day. They started by showing
7 photos of their office walls, now covered with peg
8 board, in order to organize an unwieldy number of
9 individual student inhalers to medicate too many
10 students across their school building populations.
11 These asthma medications have become essential to
12 believing itself, yet we've never witnessed, in my
13 earlier years of teaching.

14 Ask yourself, can we afford to
15 continue allowing polluters to pour climate changing
16 emissions into the environment, where these harmful
17 pollutants especially impact children, seniors, and
18 low income environmental justice communities. I
19 implore you today, recognizing that with
20 Pennsylvania joining RGGI, we will travel the
21 obviously healthy path to avoid the worst impacts of
22 climate change.

23 While we know it will significantly
24 reduce air pollution and protect public health, we
25 also know that it can predictably create 27,000 new

1 jobs and put nearly two billion into this State's
2 economy over the next ten years alone. Even
3 electricity prices will fall, as measured in
4 existing RGGI states, by merely 6 percent.

5 Are you inspired by the hope and
6 promise of removing pollutants as I am? Without
7 question, because RGGI is one major evidence-based
8 initiative that we can and must take, your attention
9 to commit now, even after decades of inattention,
10 will reduce climate change, air, and water
11 pollution. For me, it will also assure leading
12 students into another amazing outdoor classroom once
13 again. Thank you sincerely for this time.

14 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Kenda.

15 Next up, we have Number 32, Howard
16 Sherman.

17 MR. SHERMAN: Yes. Can you hear me?

18 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

19 Go ahead.

20 MR. SHERMAN: Great.

21 Good afternoon. My name is Howard
22 Sherman, and I'm a Pennsylvania resident testifying
23 today as a concerned private citizen. I live at 267
24 North Highland Avenue in Lansdowne. Thank you for
25 the opportunity to present testimony on the question

1 of whether Pennsylvania should join RGGI, the
2 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

3 We all know beyond dispute that the
4 unrestricted burning of fossil fuels has led to
5 multiple adverse health impacts among Americans,
6 including shortened life expectancy and greater
7 vulnerability to the impacts of diseases, among
8 them, COVID-19. We also know, beyond dispute, that
9 our unrestricted burning of fossil fuels is
10 increasingly warming the planet with consequences
11 which we already see as natural disasters have
12 become more frequent and more severe with each
13 passing year.

14 As a senior citizen with a history of
15 bronchitis, having to breathe contaminated air puts
16 me at a greater risk than most Pennsylvanians for
17 severe illnesses and shortened life expectancy. In
18 former years, I joined and maintained an active
19 practice running, hiking, and other means of
20 vigorous outdoor exercise. These activities are
21 important to keep me healthy.

22 In the last few years, however, I've
23 had to limit my outdoor exercise on certain days,
24 subject to warnings that the air quality is
25 unhealthy for people like me. That's only my story.

1 But the same air pollution and its adverse health
2 defects affects Pennsylvanians of all ages and all
3 walks of life, including everyone attending this
4 hearing today and all of you who will make the
5 decision on RGGI.

6 As serious a problem as toxic air
7 pollution is in our current time, we know that the
8 long run of cumulative impacts of global warming,
9 due to unrestricted fossil fuel burning, present an
10 even greater crisis. We're already seeing its
11 impacts between loss and damaged lives and in
12 massive social and economic dislocations. Yet, the
13 current impacts get the most reliable scientific
14 predictions tell us the abitur of what is to come if
15 we fail to reduce our burning of fossil fuels.

16 The greatest burden, according to the
17 best scientific predictions, will fall on the
18 younger generations, the children and grandchildren
19 of our generation. At some point, in future years,
20 they're going to be looking at us and judging us,
21 judging what did you do or fail to do in your time
22 to mitigate this catastrophe. How much did we think
23 of them and the consequences they have to bear when
24 we made our choices?

25 Most of you attending this hearing and

1 those on the Board who are responsible for making a
2 decision on RGGI have children and grandchildren of
3 your own, I assume. What will you tell them about
4 your decision when, in a future time, they confront
5 you about the burden placed on them if you decide to
6 continue our unrestricted burning of fossil fuels.

7 Equally, what do you tell your own
8 conscience if you intentionally, knowingly choose to
9 do nothing in full knowledge that the worst
10 consequences of your decision will fall on your own
11 children and grandchildren. At present,
12 Pennsylvania is the fourth largest emitter of
13 greenhouse gases in the US. How can we tolerate
14 this and why should we tolerate this, knowing the
15 consequences that will fall on our descendants?

16 Members of the Environmental Quality
17 Board and the Department of Environmental
18 Protection, it is past time that we step forward and
19 join RGGI for the sake of all Pennsylvanians,
20 present and future. I urge you, for the health of
21 each of us living here today and the wellbeing of
22 our descendants, to vote unanimously to support
23 Pennsylvania joining RGGI. Thank you.

24 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Mr. Sherman.

25 Next up, we have Number 33, Naomi

1 Miller.

2 MS. MILLER: Hi. My name is Naomi
3 Miller and I am representing myself. I live in
4 Center City, Philadelphia and I worked for over 25
5 years as a Ph.D. researcher at the University of
6 Pennsylvania Museum. I'm an archeologist with
7 special expertise in long-term human impact on the
8 environment and the effect of climate change on
9 society. Since this hearing is specifically about
10 reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide, I will comment
11 mainly on global warming.

12 For being in Center City, my apartment
13 building is adversely affected by the increasing
14 storm intensity and flooding that is a direct result
15 of climate change. Additionally, earlier springs
16 and later winters make it harder on the insect
17 pollinators we depend on for much of our food.
18 Beneficial pollinator groups, pollinators are in
19 steep decline. At the same time, without long, hard
20 freezes, insect pests increase. So my concern is
21 about food and the Pennsylvania farmers who supply
22 it. As an aside, I also worry about fine
23 particulates, caused by fossil fuel burning, because
24 they are associated with dementia.

25 In my archeologist hat, it is clear

1 that the rate of atmospheric CO2 increase is
2 unprecedented in all Homo sapiens' existence on
3 earth. Never has a human population had to evolve
4 its culture, social, and technological response to
5 climate change as we do today.

6 There are many ways to reduce
7 atmospheric carbon dioxide, and no one method is
8 enough. They need to work in concert. Leaving
9 carbon in the ground by reducing fossil fuel use is
10 one of the most effective. Joining RGGI provides
11 for producers and consumers of fossil fuels to
12 share the long-term costs of continued extraction.
13 If the legislature used the proceeds to mitigate the
14 causes and effects of climate change, so much the
15 better.

16 RGGI has helped other states
17 significantly reduce carbon dioxide and particulate
18 matter emissions, which improve public health and,
19 at the same time, it slows climate change. If we
20 are ever going to reduce carbon dioxide in the air,
21 we're going to have to leave the carbon in the
22 ground. We can plan for that eventuality, or we can
23 not plan for that eventuality. RGGI is a small step
24 but a necessary one that will lead us to a carbon-
25 reduced economy. Thank you very much.

1 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Ms. Miller.
2 Next up, we have Number 35, Kelly
3 Flanigan.

4 MS. FLANIGAN: Hello.

5 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Kelly.

6 MS. FLANIGAN: So, good afternoon and
7 thank you for this opportunity to comment today. My
8 name is Kelly Flanigan. I'm commenting as a private
9 citizen. I currently live in Philadelphia,
10 Pennsylvania and I grew up in the Philly suburbs.

11 So Pennsylvania is and always has been
12 my home, and after being here today, I am so deeply
13 concerned about what our future looks like here in
14 Pennsylvania and throughout the rest of the United
15 States if we don't take immediately steps to combat
16 the climate crisis, including joining the Regional
17 Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I'll be 27 on Thursday
18 and as a relatively young person living in
19 Pennsylvania today, I'm honestly terrified of even
20 what the future is going to look like if we don't
21 take action. There's a reason that these movements
22 are being led by young people. We're the ones who
23 will feel the effects of our continued inaction and
24 we already are.

25 So when I was little, my mom and I

1 would go skiing in the Poconos all winter long. In
2 the middle of high school, I spent my Friday nights
3 skiing and snowboarding at Bear Creek with my
4 friends. But now, we're lucky if we get one late-
5 season ski trip because the ski resorts are not
6 getting enough natural snow and it's often not even
7 cold enough for them to make artificial snow. This
8 change is no longer some distance threat. We're
9 feeling its impacts right here, right now. And it's
10 not just about getting less snow in the winter.

11 Increasing summer temperatures are
12 making everyday activities more dangerous for our
13 most vulnerable populations and exacerbating already
14 poor air quality in our cities. Agriculture and
15 outdoor recreation industries are taking a serious
16 hit as the timing and length of our season change
17 and as increasingly dangerous, extreme weather
18 events tumble our communities. Climate change is
19 affecting our health, it's affecting our economy, and
20 it's affecting our quality of life. And not just
21 here in Pennsylvania.

22 All around the country and around the
23 world, people are already suffering due to the
24 climate crisis. So it's outrageous to me that there
25 are still people out there who want to continue the

1 status quo, that people continue allowing one of our
2 most polluting industries to keep pumping out
3 greenhouse gases without limits.

4 That's why joining RGGI is such a
5 critical first step for Pennsylvania. We're the
6 fourth largest greenhouse gas emitter in the
7 country. At one time, Pennsylvania contributed one
8 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.
9 That's more than some entire countries, just from
10 our State. We need to move away from our fossil
11 fuel past and take this step forward.

12 So it's time to make Pennsylvania a
13 clean energy leader. By requiring companies to pay
14 for how much they pollute, we can drive down climate
15 and air pollution, inject much-needed money into our
16 State's economy, and create thousands of good jobs
17 right here in Pennsylvania. Above all else, we need
18 to create a safe and livable climate for generations
19 to come and RGGI is the first step for Pennsylvania.
20 So I urge the State to join this critical program as
21 quickly as possible. Thank you.

22 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Kelly.

23 I am being told that Number 36 is no
24 longer testifying and neither is Number 42.

25 So next up, we have Number 37, Laura

1 Velez.

2 MS. VELEZ: Hello. Can you hear me?

3 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

4 Hi, Laura.

5 MS. VELEZ: Hi.

6 Good afternoon. My name is Laura
7 Velez and I live in northeastern Pennsylvania. I am
8 here today to voice my support for Pennsylvania's
9 entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

10 There are three main reasons I support
11 this initiative. Joining RGGI will help prevent job
12 losses in the nuclear, solar, wind, and hydropower
13 industries as well as other numerous critical
14 technical industries that support these facilities.
15 RGGI has a track record for making states more
16 competitive. And more importantly, this initiative
17 in other states has seen CO2 reduction by 47
18 percent.

19 In summary, this initiative will
20 protect our jobs and the jobs of highly skilled
21 individuals. It will also ensure that our state
22 continues to grow. And lastly, and more
23 importantly, it will ensure that we continue to
24 protect our environment for the future of our
25 children.

1 By supporting RGGI, I am also standing
2 up for nuclear power in Pennsylvania. You see, I am
3 a chemical engineer by trade. I also left the land
4 of Puerto Rico to the main United States 14 years
5 ago. I started my career in the nuclear industry.
6 I am currently an engineering manager in one of
7 these clean, safe, and reliable nuclear facilities
8 in our state. And I am very passionate about the
9 science behind those doors and how do we positively
10 impact the environment and the community around us.
11 I continue to encourage young minds in our area to
12 involve themselves in the STEM fields because I am
13 passionate about what I do every day.

14 However, I did not grow up in nuclear
15 in this beautiful area. I had to uproot my family
16 two years ago and leave friends that became family
17 behind following the decommissioning of one of these
18 units in another state. I do not wish this on
19 anyone, especially young and hard-working families
20 with school-aged children. Having that conversation
21 with my daughter, that experience, left a mark on
22 all of us.

23 RGGI means Pennsylvania's nuclear
24 power plants have had an opportunity to compete on a
25 more level playing field. Nuclear power is clean,

1 safe, reliable, and affordable electricity that
2 generates economic and environmental benefits for
3 everyone.

4 Nuclear energy is the only carbon-free
5 electricity source that can produce large amounts of
6 electricity around the clock. Pennsylvania's eight
7 nuclear power reactors provide 34 percent of the
8 State's electricity and 91 percent of its clean
9 energy. Pennsylvania's nuclear energy facilities
10 employ 15,000 full-time direct and indirect in-state
11 jobs. Pennsylvania already saw an experience, the
12 premature closing of one of its nuclear power plants
13 in 2019. We cannot allow this to happen again.

14 For my family and for yours and for so
15 many more reasons, I ask the Department of
16 Environmental Protection to move Pennsylvania into
17 its future and enter our Commonwealth into RGGI.
18 Thank you all for the opportunity to use my
19 experience and voice to move us forward into the
20 future. Thanks.

21 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Laura.

22 Next up, we have Robert Ellis. I'm
23 also told that Number 45 has removed themselves from
24 testifying today.

25 MR. ELLIS: Hello?

1 MS. SHIRLEY: Robert? All right. Go
2 ahead.

3 MR. ELLIS: Good afternoon. My name's
4 Bob Ellis. I'm providing testimony today as a
5 concerned private citizen of Pennsylvania in support
6 of PA linking to the Regional Greenhouse Gas
7 Initiative, or RGGI.

8 As a construction management
9 professional and member of the Global Climate
10 Reality Project Leadership Corps in Philadelphia
11 chapter, I clearly see that the clean energy sector
12 jobs are the future for Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania
13 state legislators have touted the importance of jobs
14 in the coal and gas industries as the backbone of
15 the economy in all the Pennsylvania counties where
16 coalmining and gas extraction are prevalent.

17 Less downplayed or not talked about at
18 all are the human costs that go hand-in-hand with
19 this model, including increased air and water
20 pollution, reduced life expectancy, increased rates
21 of lung cancer, heart, respiratory, and kidney
22 disease, more children of low birth weight, and
23 premature deaths and birth defects.

24 It's time for legislators to cut ties
25 with fossil fuel corporations and tell their

1 constituents the truth, coalmining is a dying
2 industry. Coal is the most expensive source of
3 power for electricity generation and natural gas
4 extraction is falling fast behind alternative clean
5 energy sources such as wind and solar.

6 Jobs in the fossil fuel industries are
7 disappearing, whereas jobs in the alternative energy
8 industry are growing rapidly. With appropriate
9 training, many of these jobs are well-suited to coal
10 and gas workers, giving communities the opportunity
11 to maintain reliable economies and avoid mass
12 migration.

13 The adoption of the Regional
14 Greenhouse Gas Initiative in Pennsylvania will
15 reduce CO2 emissions, protect the health of
16 Pennsylvania families, and position Pennsylvania as
17 a leader in the growing clean energy economy. Right
18 now, Pennsylvania is conspicuously missing on a list
19 of New England and mid-Atlantic states that have
20 adopted RGGI. Looking at least in part to the
21 incorrectly perceived and promoted concept of the
22 necessity of coal and gas as major contributors to
23 Pennsylvania's economy, both Kentucky and West
24 Virginia, states that have an equal or greater
25 reliance than Pennsylvania on fossil fuel

1 extraction, are taking on the reality of clean
2 energy development and have started training
3 programs, such as Solar Holler in West Virginia, to
4 prepare their constituents with a clean energy
5 future that's coming.

6 RGGI is proven to be a job-creating
7 initiative. Pennsylvania needs to get in step. The
8 political will to back RGGI is needed right now.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Mr. Ellis.
11 Next up, we have Number 41, Phyllis
12 Terwilliger.

13 MS. TERWILLINGER: I am Phyllis
14 Terwilliger, a mother of two adult sons from York,
15 Pennsylvania. I am the Northeast Jurisdictional
16 Climate Justice Advocate for the United Methodist
17 Women, an organization of 800,000 members. Girl
18 Scouts, Boy Scouts, a church, a basketball team, a
19 baseball team, a soccer team, a football team, a
20 track team, a gang, the United Methodist Women, the
21 NAACP, Mom's Clean Air Force. We join because we
22 want to work together for a specific goal. We want
23 to play with others and we believe in a cause bigger
24 than ourselves.

25 Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New

1 Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey,
2 Vermont, Connecticut, and Maine. All of these
3 states are working together in a bipartisan way
4 towards a specific goal, to cap and reduce carbon
5 dioxide emissions from the power sector. The
6 adverse impacts of climate change disproportionately
7 affects individuals and nations least responsible
8 for the emissions.

9 Therefore, the United Methodist
10 Church's social principles support efforts of all
11 governments to require mandatory reductions in
12 greenhouse gas emissions.

13 So Pennsylvanians, we need to join
14 these northeastern states who have participated in
15 RGGI and have cut carbon pollution by 45 percent
16 over the last 11 years and have invested billions in
17 clean energy and efficiency programs. Joining RGGI
18 would lead to meaningful climate action. Oil, coal,
19 natural gas, all extracted industries in
20 Pennsylvania that take a toll on communities and
21 workers.

22 Coal runs through my veins. My
23 grandfather lived in Frackville, Pennsylvania and
24 worked the land as an anthracite coal miner. He
25 died of black lung at the age of 54, leaving a wife

1 and seven sons. Injustice is when people have to
2 choose between having a job or their health.
3 Another injustice, historically, polluting sources
4 such as power plants have been located near
5 communities of color and low income communities,
6 making it essential to put in place safeguards to
7 ensure communities benefit from a rule that reduces
8 carbon pollution. That, Pennsylvanians, is working
9 toward racial and economic justice.

10 When we join RGGI, we need to make
11 sure that those who are wounded by this system have
12 a voice in its implementation. Now, it is the time.
13 Now is the time to join with others in realizing
14 that air, water, and carbon dioxide emissions are
15 not limited by political boundaries. Now is the
16 time to claim the unity of our neighboring states
17 and join RGGI. It's why we're called the United
18 States.

19 By participating in RGGI, not only
20 will Pennsylvania be able to reduce climate
21 pollution from carbon emissions, we will also be
22 able to significantly improve our air quality by
23 reducing pollution from sulfur dioxide, nitrogen
24 oxide, and particulate matter. These reductions
25 will particularly benefit those most impacted by

1 poor air quality such as children, seniors, low
2 income, and traveling communities.

3 Christians are commanded to love their
4 neighbors and themselves. Sometimes that means
5 changing systems that do harm. Now is the time. As
6 citizens of the United States, we pledge liberty and
7 justice for all. Now is the time, Pennsylvania, to
8 commit to just energy for all of God's people and
9 creation. Thank you.

10 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Phyllis.

11 Next up, we have Number 47, Shelby
12 Parks.

13 MS. PARKS: Hi. Can you hear me?

14 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

15 MS. PARKS: Thanks.

16 Okay. Hi. My name is Shelby Parks
17 and I am testifying as a private citizen today, but
18 I'd like to mention that I work on transportation
19 electrification for the NRDC. Also, my mother's
20 family is from Pennsylvania and my uncle runs a farm
21 outside of Erie. He's very worried about impacts
22 that climate change is already having on his crops
23 and feels that Pennsylvania needs an accelerated
24 transition away from fossil fuels.

25 I think RGGI can help us get there,

1 and I come to comment in support of RGGI for
2 Pennsylvania. I really applaud the DEP for moving
3 forward with this regulation, especially considering
4 how little the General Assembly is doing to address
5 climate issues. RGGI can bring significant public
6 health, environment, economic, and jobs benefits, as
7 has been observed in other participating states. In
8 that light, it is important that RGGI is structured
9 in a way that will truly provide emissions
10 reductions from the power sector and benefit all
11 Pennsylvanians through widespread air quality
12 improvements.

13 The DEP should establish stringent
14 caps in the small enough budget of allowances so as
15 to affect swift and significant emissions
16 reductions. Further, I urge the DEP to invest a
17 large percentage of RGGI proceeds in low income
18 communities and communities of color in Pennsylvania
19 who have long been overburdened by pollution from
20 the power sector. RGGI proceeds should be used both
21 for mediation of past harms associated with
22 pollution and for renewable energy infrastructure
23 and energy efficiency programs in these communities.

24 Also, as the State moves away from
25 coal, it can ensure that coal workers aren't left

1 behind. RGGI funds should also support local coal
2 workers' transition into the clean energy sector, if
3 possible.

4 And as someone who works on
5 transportation electrification, I want to underscore
6 how important it is that our electric vehicles are
7 powered with clean energy from renewable sources.
8 RGGI would reduce the carbon footprint associated
9 with electricity production and make Pennsylvania's
10 growing electric vehicles work cleaner.

11 Once more, RGGI presents an
12 opportunity for much needed investments in
13 transportation electrification. Massachusetts, for
14 example, has used some of its RGGI dollars for
15 electric vehicle purchase incentives. And New
16 Jersey has plans to spend a portion of proceeds on
17 electrifying the medium in heavy duty vehicle
18 sector, which is an especially high polluting piece
19 of transportation. Pennsylvania should consider
20 using RGGI to fund similar programs and reduce
21 transportation emissions along with those in from
22 the power sector.

23 Finally, I strongly discourage the DEP
24 from allocating set-aside credits to waste coal
25 plants. These plants emit harmful air pollutants

1 and should be required to pay for that pollution in
2 the same way other plants will. So thank you so
3 much for giving me the opportunity to comment today
4 and let's move forward with RGGI.

5 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Shelby.

6 Next up, we have Number 48, Edith
7 Ruiz.

8 MS. RUIZ: Hello?

9 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Edith.

10 MS. RUIZ: Hi. Good afternoon.

11 My name is Edith Ruiz and I'm speaking
12 today as a resident of Dixonia, the north hills of
13 Pittsburgh, PA. I have lived in Pennsylvania since
14 2011, when I moved from my home state of Alabama to
15 be with my fiancé, now husband. In that time since,
16 I have come to love and enjoy all of the beautiful
17 areas and natural spaces that I've explored in the
18 surrounding western PA.

19 I come from a family of
20 conservationists and environmental activists, so I
21 recognize many of the environmental challenges the
22 State has and still faces today. Clean air,
23 improved water quality, and greater energy
24 efficiency are extremely important goals for the
25 residents of Pennsylvania. As a new

1 member/volunteer of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club, I
2 also joined the efforts of regional conservationists
3 and environmentalists before me and those who are
4 still working very hard today to achieve these
5 aforementioned goals.

6 Today, we are here to discuss to
7 champion the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative,
8 RGGI, to be implemented in Pennsylvania by 2022.
9 RGGI provides a framework for Pennsylvania to invest
10 in clean energy to save money, create homegrown jobs
11 with family-sustaining wages, all while addressing
12 climate change by cutting carbon pollution.

13 As a result of the State's cooperating
14 power plants, Pennsylvanians are exposed to high
15 levels of air pollution. These plants spew carbon
16 dioxide as well as dangerous sulfur dioxide, smog-
17 forming nitrogen oxides, and particulates. Reducing
18 carbon pollution from these plants will free up
19 airways, resulting in health impacts that we can all
20 benefit from.

21 Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI
22 was necessary even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic so
23 it's absolutely crucial now, as it creates a path
24 toward more stable climate, healthier air, and a
25 robust clean energy economy.

1 A poll conducted last year found that
2 79 percent of Pennsylvanians support a proposal up
3 to zero carbon pollution from power plants, with
4 Pennsylvanians overall preferring lawmakers who
5 support strong action to combat climate change. We
6 need to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030
7 and eliminate them from our economy by 2050.

8 RGGI is a critical first step
9 Pennsylvania must take to do our fair share to
10 address and mitigate a changing climate.

11 Climate change will not wait for us to
12 act sometime in the future. We must implement RGGI
13 now to prepare ourselves against the most severe
14 impacts of climate change. The longer that we wait,
15 the more challenging and expensive the actions
16 necessary, we will have to make, will become.
17 Studies have shown that the most cause effective
18 investment of RGGI dollars is investment in energy
19 efficiency programs. Participation in RGGI will
20 bring in hundreds of millions of dollars per year
21 from the fossil fuel polluters to Pennsylvania for
22 investment in energy efficiency programs and local
23 renewable energy. Both offset energy costs for
24 families and create good paying jobs that will
25 improve our economy across the board.

1 In conclusion, RGGI provides the
2 framework for Pennsylvania to invest in clean energy
3 and energy efficiency programs to save people money,
4 to create jobs with family-sustaining wages, all
5 while addressing a climate change by cutting carbon
6 pollution.

7 Thank you for your time today and for
8 considering this very important framework which
9 works for all Pennsylvanians.

10 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you.

11 And next, we have Number 49, Greta
12 Bunin.

13 MS. BUNIN: Hello?

14 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Greta.

15 MS. BUNIN: Hi.

16 My name is Greta Bunin. I live in
17 Cheltenham Township in Montgomery County, where I am
18 a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. I
19 am a professional epidemiologist and have spent most
20 of my career studying the costs of cancer. I'm here
21 today to urge DEP to approve the CO2 budget trading
22 program regulation because I am so concerned about
23 climate change as a citizen, of course, but also as
24 a mother and an epidemiologist.

25 As a citizen, serving on my local

1 Environmental Advisory Council, I see that the
2 effects of local action are limited. For example,
3 the EAC may be able to convince township officials
4 to purchase electric vehicles, as the ethylene
5 vehicles need to be replaced, and we can promote
6 home weatherization, composting, and diets with more
7 plant groups, but we can't do much about the energy
8 delivered to our homes and businesses. Making the
9 State's energy grade cleaner, exactly what RGGI will
10 do for Pennsylvania, will make a much larger
11 difference.

12 As a mother, I worry about what life
13 will be like for my 20-something daughter, the
14 others of her generation, and younger generations.
15 Judging from my daughter, young people are actually
16 terrified about what their future will hold. I know
17 we are running out of time to avoid the worst
18 effects, and it's very difficult to look young
19 people in the eye and tell them it's going to be
20 okay. All of us, especially those in older
21 generations, have a moral obligation to do all we
22 can to minimize climate change.

23 As an epidemiologist, I know that
24 climate change will damage our health in many ways
25 and is already. I'll focus on effects of just one

1 result of climate change, rising temperatures here
2 in Pennsylvania, where our climate will be much like
3 that of today's Miami. The temperature rise will
4 increase air pollution.

5 Air pollution, particularly small
6 particulates, is known to increase the death rate
7 overall, the death rate from heart disease, the
8 instance of lung cancer, asthma, and even premature
9 births. In addition, air pollution likely increases
10 high blood pressure, diabetes, heart attacks, and
11 strokes, and many other medical conditions.

12 Besides direct effects on disease,
13 climate change indirectly damages health when severe
14 weather events close healthcare facilities and
15 interrupt patients' medical care for chronic
16 conditions and conditions that require continuous
17 care.

18 We need to act now. This program, and
19 joining RGGI, is a great step forward that we know
20 works based on the states that are already members.
21 I urge DEP to adopt this rule without major
22 revision. Minor revisions are needed so that as we
23 reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we invest in
24 two groups of Pennsylvania communities, those that
25 have historically born the burden of air pollution

1 from fossil fuel industries and those that will lose
2 fossil fuel jobs.

3 For example, these communities should
4 be first in line for the new, good-paying, clean
5 energy jobs that will be created by the State
6 joining RGGI. Thank you for the opportunity to
7 testify.

8 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Greta.

9 Next, we have Number 50, Kathleen
10 O'Donnell. I'm also told that Number 52, John
11 Bryan, had to leave and will be submitting his
12 comments in writing. Do we have Kathleen on the
13 line?

14 MR. JAGIELA: I do not see Kathleen on
15 the line.

16 MS. SHIRLEY: All right.
17 What about 51, Patricia DeMarco?

18 MS. DEMARCO: Yes.

19 MS. SHIRLEY: Is that Patricia?

20 MS. DEMARCO: Yes, I am here.

21 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Patricia.

22 MS. DEMARCO: Thank you.

23 My name is Patricia DeMarco. I am the
24 Vice President of the Forest Hills Bureau Council
25 and I am a senior scholar at Chatham University. I

1 live in Pittsburgh, PA, in the town of Forest Hills.
2 And I'm speaking today as a private citizen on
3 behalf of the children of the 21st century, whose
4 quality of life will be shaped by the decisions that
5 we're making today.

6 We've heard repeatedly about the
7 impact of climate change immediately in our area and
8 I'm not going to repeat all of that right now. But
9 I will note that climate change is already affecting
10 our - every facet of our economy, including the
11 infrastructure, agriculture, residential and
12 commercial properties as well as human health and
13 labor productivity.

14 The Bureau of Forest Hills has adopted
15 a climate action plan with a goal of reaching net
16 zero carbon emissions by 2050. To reach this goal,
17 we plan to migrate increasingly to renewable sourced
18 electricity through residential, commercial, and
19 transportation sectors. Pennsylvania's
20 participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
21 Initiative will be important for us to achieve this
22 goal using Pennsylvania generated electricity
23 resources.

24 The invisible hand of the market, as
25 currently structured, will not make the adjustments

1 necessary. We must put in place the regulatory and
2 legal infrastructure to support the transformation
3 of our energy system as necessary for our
4 civilization to survive.

5 Pennsylvania has created much of the
6 wealth of the industrial age, from its rich
7 endowment of fossil deposits oil, coal, natural gas,
8 and the industries that are based on extraction,
9 combustion, and industrial production used in these
10 extractive industries. This has supported the
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania economy for many
12 decades.

13 Policies that are in place now, and
14 they're pursued vigorously, stand to defend this
15 historic base to sustain operations with policies
16 and practices that limited, even punitively, any
17 perceived challengers to the oil, gas, and coal
18 industries.

19 Their objections to initiatives such
20 as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative have
21 effectively curtailed growth in our State, compared
22 to our neighboring states in even New York, West
23 Virginia, and Virginia. I think we need to
24 understand that if those industries want to be in
25 the energy business by the end of this century, they

1 need to support initiatives that will enable and
2 finance the removing of the barriers to renewable
3 energy.

4 Pennsylvania should participate in the
5 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for three
6 reasons. First of all, carbons emissions
7 reductions, and you've heard a great deal about this
8 today. So I'm not going to speak to that, other
9 than to say that after introduction of RGGI in 2009,
10 the region's emissions would've been 24 percent
11 higher without that program, accounting for about
12 half of the emissions reductions during that time,
13 which were far greater than those achieved in the
14 rest of the United States.

15 The second reason we should support it
16 is from the electricity system economics, where the
17 cost of renewable resources has been continually
18 declining over the last decade so that now, utility-
19 scale wind and solar are competitive with all but
20 the most achieved gas-combined cycle units.

21 And the social benefits of moving to
22 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative are enormous. As
23 the pollution from burning fossil fuels decreases,
24 significant health benefits will accrue to the
25 communities that are currently afflicted with power

1 plant emissions. The environmental justice
2 communities deserve relief from the barrage of toxic
3 fumes, particulates, and poor air quality that
4 accompany fossil fuel combustion.

5 And the skilled workers of
6 Pennsylvania deserve investment in industries where
7 job growth has a positive trajectory to the end of
8 the century, rather than an ongoing boom-and-bust
9 sequence that leaves communities devastated and
10 impoverished while the wealth leaves the area to
11 foreign corporations.

12 We must look to the future to put in
13 place the regulatory infrastructure that we need to
14 support a smooth transformation of our electricity
15 generation systems to reach a net zero carbon
16 emission profile by 2050. This is a moral
17 obligation we have to our children. Please adopt
18 the RGGI program. The laws of nature are not
19 negotiable. We must support a robust market in a
20 new direction. Thank you.

21 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Patricia.

22 Okay.

23 We are down to our final two. We have
24 Number 53, Lisa Richardson.

25 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes, I'm here.

1 MS. SHIRLEY: Hi, Lisa. You can start
2 your testimony.

3 MS. RICHARDSON: Okay, thank you.

4 My name is Lisa Richardson. I live in
5 State College. I'm speaking as a private citizen
6 today. In addition, I'm a small business owner and
7 a co-leader of the State College chapter of Citizens
8 Climate Lobby. CCL has over 400 chapters of non-
9 partisan volunteers who support price on pollution
10 through a federal bill called the Energy Innovation
11 and Carbon Dividend Act.

12 But I am here today to speak on behalf
13 of RGGI. I'd like to say that as a famous hockey
14 player, Wayne Gretzky, once said about his success,
15 he said, I skate to where the hockey puck is going.
16 So I ask, why has Pennsylvania waited so long to
17 join RGGI? We know where this hockey puck is going.
18 Let's take advantage of a clean energy transition to
19 improve our resilience, our health, and our economy
20 for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

21 As a small business owner, the bottom
22 line results in economic track records from the
23 existing RGGI states tells a very important part of
24 the story. This program creates jobs and builds a
25 workforce with skills that are relevant now and in

1 the future, helping to stabilize and sustain our
2 economy and our workforce.

3 I have a few economic takeaways that I
4 would like to share. Of course, our economy
5 especially needs jobs right now. A program like
6 RGGI creates value by using targeted investment into
7 clean energy jobs, one that is already 90,000 strong
8 in PA.

9 Secondly, according to a ten-year
10 review by Acadia, GDP of the RGGI states has grown
11 by 47 percent, outpacing growth of the rest of the
12 country by 31 percent, proving that you can grow the
13 economy by reducing emissions.

14 And third, also from Acadia, RGGI
15 states have generated 3.2 billion in allowance
16 auction proceeds and revenues from this program will
17 help create the jobs and programs that lower our
18 usage of electricity, lower our electricity bills.
19 And that is a much better path forward, versus
20 building expensive new power plants that cost
21 ratepayers more money, especially when they aren't
22 needed.

23 Fourth, from an economic development
24 standpoint, and make no mistake about what is at
25 stake, the competition between states is fierce for

1 attracting and retaining business, manufacturing,
2 and tech jobs. CEOs and their boards from Hershey
3 to Walmart and hundreds of businesses in between are
4 creating their own aggressive sustainability and
5 clean energy goals. They're responding to customer
6 demands in the US and worldwide because conserving
7 resources and reducing emissions is not only the
8 right thing to do but also because it's good for
9 their bottom line.

10 So businesses today are scrutinizing
11 whether the state they reside in or might relocate
12 to have policies that help or hurt their own promise
13 to customers and their ability to achieve their own
14 sustainability goals. PA is behind right now and we
15 need to change that.

16 Fifth, major companies in Pennsylvania
17 and in RGGI states have long-supported RGGI because
18 they recognize the enormous economic value of a
19 market-based approach. We are surrounded by states
20 who were early adopters and therefore have a ten-
21 year head start on improving their environmental
22 records. Pennsylvania cannot afford to let our
23 State fall further behind when it comes to competing
24 for new businesses and retaining existing
25 businesses. So RGGI is just good business.

1 In addition to being a business owner,
2 I have served as an interview professional at a
3 Generation and Transmission Rural Electric
4 Cooperative. So from this utility perspective, I
5 have a few points to make. First, though
6 ultimately, utilities are in a risk mitigation
7 business and should plan a generation mix that
8 doesn't put all their eggs into one fuel-source
9 basket, I find that the utilities serving
10 Pennsylvania are not future-proofing their fuel
11 asset mix. Even compared to other utilities across
12 the nation, they are lagging behind, and too high of
13 a percentage of their fuel mix is coming from fossil
14 fuels.

15 So RGGI, a market-based, flexible cap
16 and trade approach is exactly what the utilities
17 need for the long-term health of our utilities.
18 These market-based signals, if they haven't gotten
19 the message by now, will help drive our utilities to
20 reduce the advertised life of coal and natural
21 assets on their books and will lead them to
22 diversify their generation mix. This in turn, helps
23 prevent stranded assets, which would be an
24 unnecessary burden for ratepayers. Forward-thinking
25 utilities and rural electric cooperatives at other

1 states have been making this transition for years.

2 Second, the price of renewable energy
3 has dropped significantly over the last ten years
4 and continues to drop today. According to the
5 Lazard Report, costs for utility-scale solar has
6 dropped over the last five years by 13 percent and
7 on-share wind has dropped by seven percent.

8 Battery storage also is continuing to
9 drop in price. So there is no excuse for a utility
10 to drag its heels when it comes to creating a
11 greener generation mix. Many utilities are already
12 making that transition, but it appears that those
13 that serve Pennsylvania are lagging behind.

14 Third ---

15 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you. I'm sorry.
16 I have to - I have to cut you off. We will read the
17 rest of your testimony if you can submit it to us in
18 writing.

19 MS. RICHARDSON: Yes. Thank you so
20 much.

21 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you.

22 All right. Last up, we have Number
23 55, Raquel Janes.

24 MS. JANES: Hi. Can you hear me?

25 MS. SHIRLEY: Yes, we can hear you.

1 MS. JANES: Good afternoon. My name
2 is Raquel Janes. I am a student at Whitman College
3 in Walla Walla, Washington, and I live in
4 Plainville, Connecticut. I'm here today about the
5 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

6 In my 21 years, I have witnessed and
7 been affected by the raising climate crisis as it
8 concerned America. I am speaking to you today to
9 urge Pennsylvania to join this same program that
10 Connecticut and other states have adopted. I was
11 born and raised in Tampa, Florida and my family
12 still resides there. I was a very active child and
13 teenager and spent most of my time at the beach,
14 competing as an open water swimmer. My home near
15 the Gulf provided me the perfect opportunity to grow
16 up with the ocean in my backyard, yet the rising
17 temperatures turned that outlet into the source of
18 my early climate anxieties.

19 When classes began in late summer,
20 hurricane days for us were like snow days up north.
21 We loved the free day off but never understood the
22 stress and anxiety it brought on our parents. We
23 spent our days off watching movies while my family
24 would stock up on basic necessities and I was taught
25 how to board up my windows. As I grew older, those

1 hurricane days turned into weeks. The storms became
2 more intense, my streets flooded, and my relief was
3 replaced by anxiety. My education was placed on
4 hold for a storm that my family and I had zero
5 control over.

6 In school, we learned that the climate
7 crisis drastically changes weather patterns and that
8 my home near the Gulf was the most vulnerable to
9 these changes. My access to school, practice, and
10 the ability to even visit my family now relied on my
11 government's addressing climate change to the same
12 severity that my community felt its impacts during
13 the hurricane season.

14 I've lived in several states since my
15 childhood, and I have come to learn that ecosystems
16 around the country mirror that same delicate balance
17 as the one that was in my backyard. I have also
18 learned that we have the tools and resources to not
19 only maintain that balance but reverse the damage
20 that we have done to disrupt them as long as we act
21 before it's too late.

22 My education in high school should not
23 have been expendable to a political agenda,
24 especially if those high seas could've been lessened
25 or avoided entirely, had we taken action sooner.

1 Reducing air pollution should not be a political
2 issue. Clean air is a human right. To refuse that
3 right to those who pay taxes to live and work in a
4 city or state and send their children to public
5 schools is not only inhumane but underlines the
6 responsibility of a people-supported government to
7 base their actions on what is most healthy, just,
8 and safe for their constituents.

9 If I could go back, I would absolutely
10 trade my hurricane days for going to school if it
11 meant returning the safety of my neighbors and
12 avoiding thousands of dollars in damage. But maybe
13 if our governments had acted sooner, I wouldn't have
14 to wish. But climate change is an on-going battle,
15 and we have no time to regret what we have done.
16 Air and climate pollution don't care about state
17 boundaries, and what Pennsylvania decides will
18 undoubtedly impact the rest of the country.

19 I'm urging you to consider what you
20 want the children of not just Pennsylvania but the
21 children of American to remember about their
22 childhood. Because if nothing is done, my memories
23 of anxiety, storm drills, and my family's fears of
24 natural disasters will be passed on to the next
25 generation, perhaps even beyond my coastal

1 community. I understand now, as an adult, that
2 those hurricane days should've been taken as a
3 warning sign to ask sooner.

4 Don't let the next generation of
5 children grow up thinking that the safety of their
6 small home town ranks second place to big polluters.
7 RGGI is an opportunity for Pennsylvania to reduce
8 climate pollution, air pollution, and prove to the
9 people of Pennsylvania and America that the health
10 of their people and their children's futures come
11 first. I can't imagine a responsible politician
12 learning it any other way. Thank you for your time.

13 MS. SHIRLEY: Thank you, Raquel.

14 And with that, we - that was our last
15 person who had registered to testify. With no other
16 people registered to testify, I conclude this
17 hearing at 3:54 p.m. Thank you, everyone, for your
18 participation.

19 * * * * *

20 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 3:54 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 12/08/2020 and that I, Kelly Gallick, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 15th day of January, 2021


Kelly Gallick,

Court Reporter