



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: CO2 BUDGET TRADING PROGRAM

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BEFORE: LAURA GRIFFIN, CHAIR
DAREK JAGIELA
JENNIFER SWAN
SARAH PINTER
JESSICA SHIRLEY
HAYLEY BOOK

HEARING: Thursday, December 10, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Reporter: Patrick Troy

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MS. GRIFFIN: Hello, everyone. I would like to welcome you to the Environmental Quality Board, or EQB's, public hearing on the proposed rulemaking for the Pennsylvania Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program. My name is Laura Griffin. I am the Regulatory Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection. I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the Environmental Quality Board. Assisting me today is Sarah Pinter, Executive Policy Specialist, Derek Jagiela, our Host, and Jennifer Swan, who most of you corresponded with to register for this hearing.

I officially call this hearing to order at 6:00 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. The proposed rulemaking was adopted by the EQB at its meeting on September 15th, 2020. It proposes to establish a program to limit carbon dioxide, also called CO₂, and carbon dioxide

1 emissions from fossil-fuel fired power plants
2 located in Pennsylvania with an electricity
3 generation capacity equal to or greater than 25
4 megawatts.

5 The purpose of this proposed
6 rulemaking is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions,
7 which is a greenhouse gas and major contributor to
8 climate change impacts, and to do so in a manner
9 that protects public health, welfare, and the
10 environment. Under the authority of Pennsylvania's
11 Air Pollution Control Act, the proposed rulemaking
12 would establish Pennsylvania's participation in the
13 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, also called
14 RGGI, a regional carbon dioxide budget trading
15 program.

16 In addition to reducing carbon dioxide
17 emissions, Pennsylvania will also see a decrease in
18 harmful NOX, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter
19 emissions, as well as ground level ozone pollution.
20 Human exposure to these air pollutants contributes
21 to respiratory and cardiovascular health problems,
22 including asthma, bronchitis, heart attacks, and
23 strokes. By participating in RGGI, DEP estimates
24 that Pennsylvania will see carbon dioxide emission
25 reductions of around 188 million tons by 2030.

1 This concludes the summary of the
2 rulemaking. If you would like to access a more
3 detailed explanation of regulatory amendments
4 included in this rulemaking, you can visit e-comment
5 on DEP's webpage and select regulations.

6 In order to give everyone an equal
7 opportunity to comment on this proposal, I'd like to
8 establish the following ground rules. Sarah is
9 going to provide some of this information in the
10 chat box so you don't need to write everything down.

11 I will call upon the witnesses who
12 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
13 signed up were assigned a number, indicating the
14 order in which witnesses will be called on to speak.
15 Only those who signed up by contacting Jennifer
16 Swan, as indicated on the EQB webpage, will be
17 called upon to provide testimony. Testimony is
18 limited to five minutes for each witness. And I
19 will have the timer --- have a timer on the screen.

20 We do have one commenter today who is
21 being assisted by an interpreter. To allow for
22 sufficient time to translate, that witness will have
23 ten minutes.

24 Please note that written and spoken
25 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should

1 run out of time for your spoken testimony, we will
2 read the rest of your comments from your written
3 testimony.

4 As we advised in our registration
5 correspondence, please provide a copy of your
6 written testimony to regcomments@pa.gov. That's
7 R-E-G-C-O-M-M-E-N-T-S@pa.gov. Your e-mail must note
8 that you're submitting testimony for proposed
9 rulemaking CO2 Budget Trading Program, along with
10 the following information: your first and last name,
11 mailing address, e-mail address, and if you are
12 commenting on behalf of an organization.

13 Please note that the testimony is not
14 required to be five minutes long. If others who
15 provide testimony before you are making similar
16 statements to yours, you're free to shorten or
17 summarize your verbal testimony at this time and
18 still provide your full testimony by e-mail. This
19 will allow us to hear from more commenters at this
20 hearing.

21 Through the signup process,
22 prospective commenters were requested to designate
23 one witness to present testimony on behalf of an
24 organization.

25 Please state your name, address, the

1 city and state are sufficient, and affiliation, if
2 you happen to have one, for the record prior to
3 presenting your testimony.

4 The EQB would appreciate your help by
5 spelling out your name and terms that may not be
6 generally familiar, so that the transcript can be as
7 accurate as possible.

8 Because the purpose of the hearing is
9 to receive comments on the proposal, EQB members and
10 DEP staff cannot address questions about the
11 proposed rulemaking during the duration of the
12 hearing.

13 In addition to or in place of verbal
14 testimony presented at today's hearing, interested
15 persons may also submit written comments on this
16 proposal. Again, written and verbal comments hold
17 the same weight when considered in the finalization
18 of this proposed rulemaking. All testimony and
19 written comments provided become a part of the
20 official public record. All comments must be
21 received by the EQB on or before January 14th, 2021.

22 There are a few different ways to
23 submit written comments, which is separate from
24 testimony. Comments may be submitted online through
25 e-comment, which is accessible from DEP's website,

1 by clicking the e-comment icon near the top of DEP's
2 homepage, www.dep.pa.gov. Or comments may be
3 submitted by e-mail at regcomments@pa.gov.

4 All comments are entered into
5 e-comment and are accessible to the public. The
6 subject heading of the proposed rulemaking and a
7 return name and address must be included in each
8 e-mail.

9 Comments may also be sent through US
10 Postal Mail, addressed to the Environmental Quality
11 Board, P.O. Box 8477 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
12 17105-8477.

13 All testimony received at this
14 hearing, as well as written comments received by
15 January 14th, 2021, will be considered by the EQB
16 and will be included in a comment and response
17 document, which will be prepared by DEP and reviewed
18 by the EQB prior to the Board taking its final
19 action on this regulation.

20 I would now like to call the first
21 commenter, which is Kenneth Davis.

22 MR. DAVIS: Good evening. My name is
23 Kenneth Davis, K-E-N-N-E-T-H, Davis, D-A-V-I-S, and
24 I live in Warrior's Mark, Pennsylvania. First, I
25 would like to thank Governor Wolf and the Department

1 of Environmental Protection for setting greenhouse
2 gas emissions reduction targets for the State of
3 Pennsylvania and for advancing towards those targets
4 by proposing that Pennsylvania join the Regional
5 Greenhouse Gas Initiative that is RGGI. I am
6 strongly in favor of the state joining RGGI.

7 I am speaking as a private citizen.
8 But I have spent my entire professional life
9 studying climate change. I'm a professor of
10 atmospheric and climate science in the Department of
11 Meteorology and Atmospheric Science at Penn State,
12 where I have worked for 20 years. My research and
13 teaching focus on understanding the changing
14 greenhouse gas concentrations in the earth's
15 atmosphere.

16 A quick summary of decades of research
17 is this. Greenhouse gas concentrations are rising
18 rapidly and we are responsible. The burning of
19 fossil fuels is the primary cause of this rapid rise
20 in greenhouse gas concentrations. This change in
21 atmospheric composition is pushing the earth's
22 climate system into dangerous and uncharted
23 territory. Climate change is happening now. And we
24 are the cause.

25 The consequences of climate change are

1 serious and will become increasingly dire in the
2 coming decades. Pennsylvania is facing flooding of
3 increasing frequency and severity and extremes of
4 heat and humidity that we have never experienced
5 before. These are not hypothetical future problems.
6 They are here today. And they will be growing worse
7 tomorrow.

8 You can't see greenhouse gasses with
9 your eyes and you can't smell them. But you can
10 measure their concentrations with specialized laser-
11 based instruments. Part of my job involves
12 measuring greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere using
13 research aircraft equipped with these instruments.

14 When we fly downwind of the State of
15 Pennsylvania, our instruments can see the plume of
16 gasses that we, the citizens of Pennsylvania, are
17 currently dumping into the earth's atmosphere.
18 These greenhouse gasses, released by our consumption
19 of fossil fuels, will remain in the atmosphere for
20 centuries to come. Not months, not years, but
21 centuries. Generation upon generation into the
22 future will suffer from the greenhouses we emit
23 today.

24 The good news is that we can solve
25 this problem and strengthen our state as we do it.

1 The time to act is now. Pennsylvania must commit to
2 cleaning up its act. Joining the Regional
3 Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the right thing to do.

4 Transitioning to a carbon-free energy
5 system based on renewable sources like the sun and
6 the wind is the right thing to do for our climate,
7 our health, and our economy. If Pennsylvania joins
8 RGGI and puts a price on greenhouse gas pollution,
9 we will accelerate the transition to clean energy.

10 In addition to reducing greenhouse gas
11 pollution, joining RGGI will lead to a reduction in
12 the type of air pollution that can make us sick when
13 we breathe it. Fine particulate matter, for
14 example. Joining RGGI both helps prevent harmful
15 climate change and makes Pennsylvania's air safer to
16 breathe. And it will help Pennsylvania to build the
17 energy economy of the future.

18 Joining RGGI won't solve the climate
19 crisis. No single state, industry, or nation can do
20 this alone. But collectively, we can solve the
21 climate crisis if we take serious action now. RGGI
22 is a step towards a future where we no longer use
23 the atmosphere as a global wastebasket. Our climate
24 is stable. The air we breathe is safe and clean.
25 And we have a healthy and sustainable energy

1 economy.

2 Once again, I thank Governor Wolf for
3 proposing that Pennsylvania take this critical and
4 historical step. Pennsylvania should without a
5 doubt join RGGI. Thank you.

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Kenneth. Our
7 second speaker this evening is Avery Broughton.

8 MS. BROUGHTON: Hello. My name is
9 Avery Broughton, which is spelled A-V-E-R-Y
10 B-R-O-U-G-H-T-O-N. I live in Philadelphia,
11 Pennsylvania, and I'm speaking as a private citizen
12 who is deeply concerned about climate change and is
13 currently studying sustainability at the University
14 of Notre Dame.

15 I have lived in Philadelphia my whole
16 life; the same house with the same neighbors. I
17 have grown up going to see The Nutcracker at the
18 Kimmel Center and grabbing pretzels at Reading
19 Terminal Market. Philadelphia is part of who I am.
20 And I love this city deeply. But I can't ignore
21 that Pennsylvania has also harmed me and the people
22 that I love with its pollution and lack of
23 initiative to mitigate it. If we continue to raise
24 kids in polluted air that makes us sick and have
25 childhood homes torn down by storms, who knows what

1 other Philadelphian pleasures we may be able to
2 enjoy in the future. We're already seeing the
3 effects of climate change. And it isn't just
4 harmful to bears in the Arctic. It harms the
5 wonderful people that make up this diversity and
6 give it its heart and soul.

7 We see the impacts of pollution in the
8 big and the small. When my family was out of power
9 day after day this past summer, alongside the two
10 million Philadelphians who experienced record levels
11 of power outages from severe storms, that was
12 pollution. When most of my friends growing up had
13 asthma and many people I had worked with from the
14 greater Philly area have lost loved ones due to
15 cancer, that's pollution. That is why when I heard
16 that Pennsylvania is starting the Regional
17 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, to reduce
18 pollution from the power plants that drive climate
19 change and harm the lands from the city, I am proud
20 to call this my home.

21 It gives me hope when I hear that RGGI
22 would reduce pollution and look out for the
23 community, as it would produce six billion dollars
24 in health benefits in 2030, lead to over 45,000
25 fewer asthma attacks and 1,000 fewer instances of

1 childhood bronchitis.

2 An analysis from the Department of
3 Environmental Protection found that the Regional
4 Greenhouse Gas Initiative will create an increase of
5 more than 27,000 jobs and add 1.9 billion dollars to
6 the state's economy in the face of a COVID-19
7 pandemic. Having jobs and stimulating the economy
8 is more important than ever to ensure that the
9 people of Pennsylvania are able to thrive and
10 continue to be a part of its rich culture.

11 RGGI doesn't leave behind people who
12 work in energy either and will give courtesy to help
13 with the transition from coal to natural gas and
14 renewables. As a young person, I had to fear for my
15 own future, knowing that if we don't reduce CO2
16 emissions and slow climate change, I will only
17 continue to see more extreme weather and flooding,
18 more agricultural hardship, more respiratory
19 ailments, and more deaths. I know that the earth I
20 inherit won't be fully livable because the air I
21 breathe is and always will continue to be polluted.

22 I shouldn't have to consider whether it is a good
23 idea for me to have kids because I may be bringing
24 them into the world where they can't breathe and
25 they're faced with more disease.

1 Me, my fellow Pennsylvanians,
2 Americans, the world, and all of the wildlife that
3 supports us can't take any more pollution. We can't
4 take more natural disasters and more deaths.
5 Pennsylvanians are a unique people who lead not only
6 Pennsylvania but our nation in taking action on
7 climate change.

8 A statewide poll conducted in
9 September of 2020 found that over 7 in 10
10 Pennsylvanians are in support of RGGI. And a poll
11 conducted from 2019 found that 79 percent of
12 Pennsylvanians, which includes 66 percent of
13 Republicans, support placing restrictions on carbon
14 pollution from power plants as RGGI does. Not using
15 plastic bags is something, but it isn't what we
16 need.

17 It isn't going to truly fix the lives of
18 the people in Pennsylvania. It will ensure that
19 Philadelphia, the Philadelphia I grew up in, will be
20 the Philadelphia I can raise my kids in. That is
21 why we need some things with set boundaries, some
22 things that set limits for the greenhouse gas
23 emissions and power plants and our home states; the
24 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is just that. It
25 will help create a more viable future for everyone,

1 and let my generation and all future generations
2 experience Pennsylvania as it was meant to be:
3 healthy and safe.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Avery.

6 Our third speaker is Ethan Field.

7 MR. FIELD: Hello. I'm Ethan Field,
8 spelled E-T-H-A-N F-I-E-L-D. I'm from Lewisburg,
9 Pennsylvania. And I'm testifying as a private
10 citizen.

11 As I just said, I grew up in
12 Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. And I recently graduated
13 with a B.S. degree in material science engineering.
14 Furthermore, I trained this summer to become a
15 leader with the Climate Reality Project, the global
16 organization that urges people to take action on the
17 climate crisis. I'm here to voice my support for
18 Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas
19 Initiative, RGGI, for three key reasons.

20 We need to protect the environment of
21 Pennsylvania, we need to protect the economy of
22 Pennsylvania, and we need to fight the climate
23 crisis to protect planet Earth as a whole.

24 I remember in grade school, I learned
25 about William Penn and where Pennsylvania got its

1 name, Penn's Woods; also William Penn and the Latin,
2 Sylvan, meaning woods.

3 I also remember with my school, we
4 went on field trips to Pennsylvania State Parks and
5 forests, visiting World's End State Park and
6 Rickett's Glenn State Park. Seeing the massive
7 waterfalls and towering trees that these parks hold
8 truly sparks an appreciation for the environment of
9 Pennsylvania that I still hold to this day.

10 These woods that are Pennsylvania's
11 namesake, are threatened by climate change. And if
12 we do not take meaningful, deliberate, and quick
13 action on the climate crisis, then these same woods
14 are what is at stake. I wonder if my children will
15 be able to walk by the waterfalls in Ricketts Glenn
16 or if they will have dried up.

17 While I was studying material science
18 engineering in college, we learned about the
19 innovations that Americans have found to tackle the
20 climate crisis. New zero emission technologies and
21 improvements to existing technologies like solar
22 energy and wind energy. These improvements have led
23 to a massive decrease in the price of solar panels
24 and wind energy. And as a result, these sectors of
25 the energy market are not only growing, but

1 accelerating. The green energy sector, with the
2 backing of the RGGI, is predicted to create more
3 than 90,000 new jobs in Pennsylvania, especially
4 when compared to the temporary jobs that oil and gas
5 companies create when they destroy our state for the
6 wealth of their international companies. It's clear
7 that joining RGGI is good for the economy of
8 Pennsylvania.

9 Additionally, as an engineer and a
10 trained climate activist, I understand the science
11 behind climate change. And I can only foresee
12 disaster if we do not take real and meaningful
13 climate action. According to the Intergovernmental
14 Panel on Climate Change, the group charged by the UN
15 to provide guidance on how to tackle the climate
16 crisis, the earth will have warmed by up to 1.5
17 degrees Celsius by 2052 at the latest. And we are
18 more likely to reach that level of warming even
19 earlier, around 2040. With this level of warming in
20 2040, weather disasters like Hurricane Sandy in 2012
21 are five times more likely to happen, according to
22 experts at Rutgers University.

23 Already, extreme downpours are
24 happening 30 percent more often than in 1948. The
25 US Department of Agriculture reports that US farmers

1 were prevented from planting on 20 million acres in
2 2019, mainly due to heavy rainfall and flooding.

3 The cost of curbing climate change now
4 is dwarfed by the costs incurred by ignoring it.
5 Therefore, as a citizen of the United States and a
6 Pennsylvania resident, I support Pennsylvania's plan
7 to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

8 Thank you for listening to my
9 testimony. And I want to give further thanks to the
10 DEP for holding these hearings virtually and
11 allowing people across Pennsylvania to deliver their
12 testimony safely during this pandemic.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Ethan.

15 Our fourth speaker tonight is Vincent
16 O'Grady.

17 MR. O'GRADY: Good evening. My name
18 is Vincent O'Grady. And I am a resident of King of
19 Prussia, Montgomery County. Thank you for making it
20 so easy to participate in these hearings today.

21 I'm speaking on behalf of Maxwell
22 Lighting and Energy, just outside Philadelphia. In
23 the year 2019, we were the number one trade ally for
24 lighting and control projects in the PECO Smart
25 Ideas Program for Energy Efficiency.

1 I'm here to offer vigorous support for
2 RGGI on behalf of Pennsylvania's business community
3 and encourage DEP to enact policies that deliver
4 immediate relief to our Commonwealth businesses,
5 local governments, and non-profits. RGGI
6 investments in energy efficiency are a win at every
7 level. These investments will accelerate the
8 achievement of long-term policy goals such as carbon
9 neutral business operations and housing stocks. At
10 the same time, these energy efficiency investments
11 will provide small business and suffering families
12 with immediate relief from skyrocketing debts that
13 are occurring because of the pandemic.

14 Virtually all of our work at Maxwell
15 Lighting and Energy is in southeastern Pennsylvania,
16 meaning we are supporting creating local jobs while
17 providing technical expertise to family-owned and
18 independent local companies that need assistance.
19 For example, we just began a lighting upgrade for a
20 high-tech custom apparel manufacturing company.

21 But for each project like this one, we
22 have eight or ten that have been delayed
23 substantially or cancelled altogether because of a
24 lack of funding or credit. Energy efficiency
25 investments have immediate returns to local

1 communities. For businesses, they improve net
2 operating income. And for families, these
3 investments mean healthier foods purchased at local
4 markets or coverage for medicines and medical
5 expenses that are essential for family health and
6 wellbeing.

7 Investing RGGI proceeds into energy
8 efficiency can make the energy landscape more
9 equitable. Especially during the current crisis,
10 housing authorities and non-profits need our support
11 to carry out their mission.

12 One of our customers is a small town
13 public library whose patrons are mostly children.
14 And at the other end, senior citizens. The library
15 will only be able to provide curbside services
16 through spring. And its two major fundraisers for
17 the year were cancelled.

18 Meanwhile, a substantial portion of
19 its light fixtures are in a state of disrepair,
20 consuming an excessive amount of electricity. So
21 the library is dark and really not operating well.

22 At the same, I'm hearing about
23 hospitals that are cutting important support
24 services because they're losing so much money to
25 COVID-19. The need is abundant. And now we have

1 the opportunity to help all of these entities reduce
2 their carbon footprint, stabilize operations, and
3 move us to a greener Pennsylvania.

4 Finally, our society is failing to
5 provide for the basic safety, security, and health
6 of our most-vulnerable citizens. Thousands of
7 people across the Commonwealth are facing eviction,
8 bankruptcy, chronic diseases, all this because we've
9 largely failed in our social contract to protect
10 their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, the
11 face of a failed war on the insidious enemy we call
12 COVID-19.

13 By using the RGGI investments in
14 energy efficiency will start to allow us to make
15 amends for that failure.

16 And with that, I thank everybody for
17 their time to hear my testimony.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Vincent.

19 Speaker Number Five is Eric
20 Langenmayr.

21 MR. LANGENMAYR: Hi. Good evening.
22 I'm Eric Langenmayr, E-R-I-C L-A-N-G-E-N-M-A-Y-R. I
23 am testifying as a private citizen and I'm a
24 resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thank you
25 for allowing me to speak tonight.

1 I'm a retired Ph.D. chemist, so I know
2 a little bit about science and how it's done. And I
3 can tell you, I know that climate change is real and
4 that we have a limited time to reduce greenhouse gas
5 emissions to prevent climate disaster.

6 I was very happy a year ago when I
7 heard that Governor Wolf had signed an Order
8 instructing the Pennsylvania DEP to formulate
9 regulations to join RGGI, in order to reduce
10 greenhouse gas emissions from the electric power
11 sector.

12 Now, why should PA --- why should
13 Pennsylvania reduce greenhouse gasses? Well,
14 currently, we're the fifth dirtiest --- our electric
15 power sector is the fifth dirtiest in the nation.
16 If Pennsylvania were a country, it would rank in the
17 top 20 greenhouse gas emitters in the entire world.
18 And a third of those emissions are from our electric
19 power sector. So we need to reduce our greenhouse
20 gas emissions. If we don't, Pennsylvania will
21 become warmer and wetter. The average temperature
22 of Pennsylvania has already increased significantly,
23 as is average rainfall.

24 We're seeing the effects. Increased
25 flooding, stronger storms, more deaths from heat,

1 increases in diseases such as West Nile Virus and
2 Lyme's disease, disruptions to agriculture,
3 increased power outages, and increased
4 infrastructure costs. Globally, the world is seeing
5 more and hotter --- more and hotter heat waves, and
6 a litany of things that other people have already
7 mentioned, so I won't.

8 Pennsylvania is a significant
9 contributor to the world's greenhouse gas emissions.
10 We're in the top 20 if we were a country. This is
11 why we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

12 Now, why should we join RGGI? Because
13 RGGI has been a huge success since its inception in
14 2009. It's showed that you can cut greenhouse gas
15 emissions while simultaneously expanding the economy
16 and creating jobs.

17 Although touted as a cap and trade
18 program, it's really a cap and trade and invest
19 program. From 2009 to 2017, RGGI sent \$2.4 billion
20 back to its member states. These were invested in
21 energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy,
22 greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance
23 to tens of thousands of households.

24 Emissions from RGGI member states are
25 down by 47 percent, beating those from the rest of

1 the US by 90 percent. GDP of RGGI states grew by 47
2 percent coincidentally, while GDP growth for the
3 rest of the country was 31 percent. So we can cut
4 emissions as --- as we grow the economy.

5 So what can Pennsylvania expect as a
6 result of joining RGGI? Well, estimates are that by
7 joining RGGI, beginning in 2022 to the time of 2030,
8 carbon emissions will be reduced by 21 percent.
9 It's estimated that RGGI will add a lot of jobs,
10 27,000 jobs, and \$1.9 billion to the Pennsylvania
11 economy.

12 In addition, it's estimated there
13 would be \$6 billion of health benefits for
14 Pennsylvania residents in the decade after joining
15 RGGI. Lower air pollution in RGGI states has
16 resulted in fewer respiratory illnesses, heart
17 attacks. And we can expect the same in
18 Pennsylvania.

19 To summarize, Pennsylvania should
20 expect significant economic growth, significant
21 public health improvement, significant job creation,
22 reduction in retail electricity, and dramatic
23 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We need to
24 join RGGI now. And I wholeheartedly support the
25 proposed rule.

1 Thank you for considering my
2 testimony.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Eric.

4 Speaker Six today is Erin Bell.

5 MS. BELL: Hello. My name is Erin
6 Bell. That's E-R-I-N B-E-L-L. I live in Allison
7 Park, Pennsylvania. And I'm speaking tonight as a
8 participant in the organization, Moms Clean Air
9 Force. Thank you for having me.

10 I grew up in Beaver County,
11 Pennsylvania in a house located 10 minutes from both
12 the Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant and now the
13 Shell Petrochemical Plant along the Ohio River. My
14 husband grew up in central Pennsylvania, just
15 outside of the coal region with much of his family
16 coming from the economically depressed town of
17 Shamokin, a formal coal hub. We now live north of
18 Pittsburgh in Allison Park with our three-year old
19 daughter and one-year old son, with a third child on
20 the way in February.

21 I'm here today to testify in vehement
22 support of RGGI. Throughout my teens and 20s, I
23 watched as the Shell Petrochemical property in my
24 hometown grew from a few inconspicuous buildings to
25 a massive operation with sprawling infrastructure.

1 Every time I made a trip home, it
2 seems that the operation had expanded and become
3 more imposing, scary even.

4 It was in watching the progression of
5 this plant that I realized something big was
6 happening here in my hometown, and my home state and
7 I needed to pay attention.

8 I've since learned a lot about
9 Pennsylvania's manufacturing and natural gas
10 industry. I learned about the realities of
11 Pennsylvania's needs for jobs and revenue and how
12 the energy sector factors into that.

13 I've learned about our state's energy
14 production and consumption and how it's evolved over
15 the years. I've learned about the important and
16 defining role that Pennsylvania plays in the
17 regional and national energy landscape. I've also
18 learned about the detrimental environmental impacts
19 and dangerous greenhouse gas emissions associated
20 with these things.

21 This has all led me to a place of deep
22 concern and distress regarding climate change,
23 pollution, and the myriad of negative consequences
24 associated with each. The extent of my concern over
25 this crisis even led my husband and I to question

1 whether we wanted to expand our family for a third
2 time or if it was irresponsible to do so,
3 considering the most meaningful thing people can do
4 to reduce their carbon footprint is to have less
5 children.

6 As alums of the University of
7 Pittsburgh, my husband and I have taken great pride
8 in the technological innovation and groundbreaking
9 medical research taking place in our city at
10 universities like Carnegie Mellon and Pitt. We've
11 watched as our region has reinvented itself from a
12 coal and steel industrial town to one of technology
13 and innovation, where private companies like Uber
14 and Google seek to invest our human capital and our
15 resources.

16 We feel strongly that this same
17 innovative spirit can and should be applied to
18 Pennsylvania's energy sector, which is precisely
19 what RGGI does. The people of Pennsylvania have
20 proven beyond a doubt that they are resilient,
21 they're adaptive, resourceful, they are innovative,
22 and they are hardworking when given the opportunity
23 to be. RGGI will be an important step in giving
24 them this much deserved opportunity. This program
25 will allow us to invest in green energy development

1 and facilitate job creation for the deserving people
2 of our region, while also acting urgently on climate
3 crises and curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

4 Forward thinking yet proven
5 initiatives like RGGI are not only critical in
6 protecting our environment and creating sustainable
7 economic development, but they are also critical in
8 ensuring a healthy path forward for our kids. And
9 as any parent would agree, that truly is the bottom
10 line.

11 As a mom, it's impossible to stand by
12 and watch as polluting entities like coal and gas-
13 fired power plants carry on highly unregulated,
14 furthering us down the scientifically guaranteed
15 path of environmental and health degradation.

16 We can't afford to be stagnant,
17 passive, or fickle in our policy and legislation,
18 especially when people have already made enormous
19 sacrifices for the sake of public health during this
20 year of COVID-19.

21 RGGI is a reasonable and productive
22 solution that not only addresses problematic carbon
23 emissions but also reinvests in our state, our
24 communities, and by extension, our children. I'm
25 here tonight to do my part in ensuring that forward

1 progress and meaningful action is set into motion
2 for my kids and all kids in the Commonwealth.

3 This concludes my testimony and thank
4 you very much, again.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Erin. Our
6 next speaker, Number Seven, is John Nagle.

7 MR. NAGLE: Hello. My name is John
8 Nagle, J ---

9 MS. GRIFFIN: John, can you speak
10 closer to your microphone? It's really hard to hear
11 you.

12 MR. NAGLE: Okay.

13 I was having trouble connecting on,
14 actually, so I'm a little worried about that. Can
15 you hear me better now?

16 MS. GRIFFIN: It's a little bit
17 better.

18 MR. NAGLE: A little bit better? How
19 about now?

20 MS. GRIFFIN: That's much better.
21 You're getting there.

22 MR. NAGLE: Okay.

23 Thank you for reminding me about that.
24 So my name is John Nagle, J-O-H-N N-A-G-L-E. I'm
25 testifying as a private citizen. I live in

1 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I'm a professor emeritus
2 of physics at Carnegie Mellon University. I thank
3 the DEP for soliciting my comments on RGGI.

4 I'm speaking in favor of Pennsylvania
5 joining the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas
6 Initiative. I predicate my position on the
7 scientific consensus that climate change is real and
8 will be devastating if we don't tackle it now.
9 Although I'm too old to suffer the consequences of
10 climate change, I'm 81, and my children will inherit
11 enough from me that they will be safe also by moving
12 to Canada. Nevertheless, I feel a moral
13 responsibility to future generations as a
14 civilization generally to advocate for climate
15 change mitigation, even if it might reduce my net
16 worth. However, I don't think mitigation will have
17 a net impact on the economy. My green renewable
18 stocks are doing better than the market average.
19 Thank you very much.

20 Of course, there are details. And
21 that is what these hearings should bring out. I
22 personally think cap and trade is inferior to a
23 carbon fee and dividend approach that the bipartisan
24 Citizens Climate Lobby advocates. However, fee and
25 dividend may be --- may be difficult to work out on

1 a regional basis compared to a national basis.
2 Given that there is a viable regional initiative,
3 with all the New England and Mid-Atlantic states
4 participating except Pennsylvania, I think it's high
5 time we closed ranks within our region.

6 Of course, we hope for an effective
7 national policy. In the meantime, the executive
8 branch of Pennsylvania should be developing a
9 rulemaking plan to join the RGGI.

10 I hope this legislation will --- I
11 hope the legislature will not block this initiative.

12 One might argue that they may succeed in blocking
13 Pennsylvania joining the RGGI, so no plan should be
14 pursued now. I would argue instead that DEP should
15 continue to develop a plan, even if the legislature
16 strikes it down, because then people will be more
17 likely to see exactly where their legislators ---
18 where their legislators stand on the existential
19 threat of climate change. And they will cast their
20 votes. We, the citizens, will cast our votes
21 accordingly for those people who are dragging their
22 feet.

23 I see I have a few minutes left. I'll
24 just comment to conclude, I do worry that the RGGI
25 credits are only selling for \$5.61 per ton. That's

1 rather low. I think it should be more like \$60 a
2 ton. But it's a start.

3 I also think that careful thought
4 should be given about how to spend the money from
5 the sale of permits. I don't have any particular
6 recommendation on that. Maybe it should be done ---
7 maybe it should be given to mitigate those people
8 who suffer most from air pollution.

9 So thank you for listening to my
10 testimony. And I'll relinquish the rest of my time
11 for other speakers.

12 Are you still there? I'm finished
13 speaking.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Oh, I'm sorry. I
15 pressed the wrong button. Thank you, John. I just
16 wanted to reiterate, please make sure you send your
17 comments, your written testimony, to
18 regcomments@pa.gov. That way, we have a copy of
19 them in case the transcription didn't capture
20 everything.

21 MR. NAGLE: Okay.

22 I'm sorry about the speakers. I have
23 two screens here and I think it went on the wrong
24 screen.

25 MS. GRIFFIN: No problem. Thank you,

1 John.

2 Our next speaker is Jocelyn
3 Bowser-Bostick. Is Jocelyn with us?

4 MS. BOWSER-BOSTICK: Yes.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Oh, great. Please go
6 ahead.

7 MS. BOWSER-BOSTICK: You can hear me?

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can. Thank you.

9 MS. BOWSER-BOSTICK: Okay. All right.
10 Hello, everyone. My name is Jocelyn

11 Bowser-Bostick and I am the volunteer coordinator
12 for the Delaware County Ready for 100 Campaign, also
13 called DelCo Ready for 100 --- DelCo Ready for 100.

14 Our website is readyfor100.org/WPA.

15 We are one of the many local campaigns
16 that make up the national movement, started and
17 guided by the Sierra Club, to help people advocate
18 for and establish greater use of clean and noble
19 energy sources in their municipalities and states.
20 We are affiliated with the Southeastern Pennsylvania
21 Group of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club.

22 Volunteers from Delaware County
23 organize for, advocate for, and assist our fellow
24 Delco residents to get their municipal leaders to
25 adopt a resolution to commit to developing a plan

1 that transitions their municipalities to the total
2 use of clean --- of 100 percent clean and renewable
3 energy sources to provide electricity by 2030, and
4 power their transportation and construction and HVAC
5 by 2050. And they've continued to gain an energy
6 efficiency and sustainability.

7 We also inform and assist individuals
8 on incorporating clean energy and technology such as
9 solar and greater energy efficiency and
10 sustainability measures into their lives.

11 Two top reasons that people support
12 the vision and roles of Ready for 100 are that they
13 recognize that the federal government and the
14 leaders of our state government have so far not done
15 enough to help the municipalities and people of the
16 Commonwealth to cope and thrive under the
17 devastating current and future consequences of
18 climate change. PA residents and our elected
19 officials at the municipal and county level must
20 promote action and planning if we are to achieve a
21 just and safer clean energy future, which we'll
22 need, and avoid inflating the drivers of climate
23 change and thus worsening the effects it will have
24 on our environment, our lives, and future
25 generations.

1 Getting to that safer and cleaner ---
2 clean-energy-based future will be less stressful and
3 more quickly and efficiently accomplished if our
4 state leaders are wise enough to put in place
5 programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas
6 Initiative. The message is clear from various
7 scientific reports, including the latest well
8 inspection reports from the Intergovernmental Panel
9 for Climate Change that the gap remains as large as
10 ever between commitments under the Paris Climate
11 Agreement and the cuts in greenhouse gas emissions
12 needed to reach the goals of the agreement.

13 The IPCC reinforces in its report the
14 absolute need to cut greenhouse gas emissions by
15 roughly half in the next 12 years in order to move
16 towards the treaty's most ambitious life-saving
17 goal, the elimination of these emissions by 2050.

18 If we are to be a part of this crucial
19 international effort, and we must be for it to
20 succeed, that means transformation of our
21 communities on a large scale. We must rethink and
22 plan wisely how and where we build, work, shop, play
23 and live, how we transport and feed ourselves, where
24 we obtain the energy we need for economic
25 development, and the maintenance of our model lives

1 and how we adapt to the global warming impacts in
2 our future.

3 The deadly heat drops, wildfires,
4 dangerous storms, and heavier rainfall and flooding
5 from climate change and the adverse health effects
6 people suffer from due to dirty energy use are not
7 going to lessen. They are only going to grow and
8 become harder and more costly to diminish or live
9 with the longer we wait to take aggressive measures
10 to end our addiction to fossil fuel.

11 The time has passed for taking small
12 steps or isolated steps that are not part of a
13 comprehensive plan, leading to a 100 percent clean
14 and renewable energy-based society in PA and the
15 rest of the US before 2050.

16 We have a great opportunity to help
17 diminish climate change and ensure a safer and
18 healthier earth for ourselves and future generations
19 by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
20 and implementing other ways of legislation that will
21 cut our usage of fossil fuels.

22 Worldwide usage of clean energy based
23 technologies, such as electric vehicles and clean
24 renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind,
25 geothermal, and small-scale hydro power and increase

1 the number of good-paying green energy jobs
2 Pennsylvanians can apply sustainable development.
3 Development that doesn't maintain or accelerate the
4 damage of climate change, but instead de-escalates
5 and brings to an end the global warming emissions we
6 are putting into our environment. RGGI can be a
7 part of that and we need to put it in place.

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Jocolyn.

9 Our next speaker is being assisted by
10 an interpreter. Do we have Rosa Maria Miguel and
11 the interpreter on the line?

12 INTERPRETER: Yes.

13 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay. We have both?

14 Okay. Darek, do we have the
15 interpreter there?

16 MR. JAGIELA: I believe so.

17 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

18 We're having some difficulty hearing.

19 Okay. Can we come back then? We're
20 go to Kari and we'll come back to Rosa and the
21 interpreter then.

22 MR. JAGIELA: Sure.

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay. Thank you. We'll
24 see if we can work this out.

25 Okay.

1 So Kari Pohl?

2 MS. POHL: Good evening. Before I
3 begin, I would like to extend my gratitude to the
4 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
5 Environmental Quality Board for the opportunity to
6 speak this evening within the context of these
7 virtual public hearings and offer testimony for CO2
8 budget trading program regulations, which will
9 establish Pennsylvania's participation in the
10 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, otherwise known
11 as RGGI, as well as reduce carbon dioxide pollution
12 from power plants in Pennsylvania.

13 My name is Kari Pohl. First name,
14 K-A-R-I. Last name P-O-H-L. I am a member of the
15 Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania and
16 reside in Aliquippa, in Beaver County. I offer
17 these comments on behalf of the Sisters of St.
18 Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania. As Catholic Sisters,
19 we recognize that creation in all of its wondrous
20 diversity is a gift of God and requires our care and
21 respect. The tradition of Catholic teaching offers
22 a developing and distinctive perspective on
23 environmental issues.

24 In his encyclical, *Laudato si'*, Pope
25 Francis points out that, and I quote, the climate is

1 a common good belonging to all and meant for all.
2 At the global level, it is a complex system linked
3 to many of the essential conditions for human life.
4 A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we
5 are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the
6 climatic system. A number of scientific studies
7 indicate that most global warming in recent decades
8 is due to the great concentration of greenhouse
9 gasses, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides,
10 and others, released mainly as a result of human
11 activity, end quote.

12 Quoting from the Pennsylvania DEP
13 website, by participating in RGGI, Pennsylvania will
14 reduce climate pollution from carbon emissions by a
15 massive 188 million tons by 2030. Emissions of
16 other harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxide, sulfur
17 dioxide, and particulate matter emissions will also
18 drop significantly, end quote.

19 As environmental justice communities
20 are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of
21 a warming climate, pollution and greenhouse gas
22 emissions, particularly in regards to negative
23 health outcomes and decreased property values, the
24 Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania support
25 Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional

1 Greenhouse Gas Initiative, both as a step towards
2 preserving the climate that we all share as well as
3 a way to potentially decrease disparities and
4 inequity within the Commonwealth.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Kari.

7 So our next speaker, Number 11, is
8 David Howell.

9 MR. HOWELL: Thank you. This is David
10 Howell. I live in Murrysville, Pennsylvania. And I
11 appreciate the opportunity to talk tonight.

12 I am the president of the America's
13 Operating Plant business for the Westinghouse
14 Electric Company. I am here today representing
15 3,000 Westinghouse employees in the Commonwealth of
16 Pennsylvania and 9,000 employees worldwide. I have
17 worked for Westinghouse and lived in Pennsylvania
18 for the last 38 years. Pennsylvania is where it all
19 started for Westinghouse and it's where we are
20 leading the way with a new generation of nuclear
21 energy power plants. With 50 percent of the nuclear
22 power operating suite in the United States based on
23 Westinghouse technology, our roots are planted
24 firmly in the nuclear industry and in this state.

25 From the design of the first

1 commercial pressurized reactor in the United States,
2 built more than 60 years ago in Shippingport,
3 Pennsylvania to the two new AP1000 class nuclear
4 plants under construction in the State of Georgia,
5 we are committed to remain the world's first choice
6 for safe, clean, and efficient energy solutions.

7 We continue to drive nuclear research
8 and development right here in Pennsylvania. This
9 continued innovation has allowed us to work with our
10 partners to develop products and services for both
11 existing and future clean energy markets. From our
12 global headquarters in Cranberry Township,
13 Pennsylvania, to our four major facilities in the
14 Commonwealth, to the more than 20 regional offices
15 and manufacturing facilities in the United States,
16 we provide a complete range of services, including
17 engineering services, new plant design, nuclear fuel
18 manufacturing, instrumentation and control, field
19 outage services, plant modifications and
20 decontamination and decommissioning. We provide
21 these services not only in the United States but all
22 around the world.

23 Nuclear energy is clean energy. And
24 is an ideal partner for other clean and renewable
25 sources of carbon-free electric generation. But

1 none of these sources can provide baseload power
2 every hour of every day. Nuclear power plants are
3 the only carbon-free baseload electric generation
4 source that can and do provide safe, reliable
5 electricity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days
6 a year.

7 In total, nuclear energy generates
8 around 20 percent of the United States' electricity
9 and more than 50 percent of the United States'
10 carbon free electricity.

11 This hearing on a CO2 budget trading
12 program and the question of whether Pennsylvania
13 participates in the RGGI program addresses an
14 important policy question. How do we reduce
15 greenhouse gases and still provide the needed
16 electricity to heat our homes, power our businesses,
17 and grow our economy?

18 Westinghouse believes that the best
19 way to do this is to properly value clean energy and
20 to retain our largest source of clean energy, that
21 is, nuclear power. There is currently no way for
22 the markets to properly value the clean and reliable
23 power that nuclear energy provides the state, the
24 region, and the country. It is our hope that the
25 RGGI program can provide that value for

1 Pennsylvania.

2 Westinghouse believes that the first
3 step in making a serious commitment to reduce our
4 carbon footprint is to build upon what is already in
5 place. The US nuclear industry is operating at its
6 highest levels of efficiency and safety in history.
7 At the same time, we have lost 6 percent of the US
8 nuclear energy generation fleet with a possibility
9 of additional plants closing.

10 As Pennsylvania considers joining
11 RGGI, it is critical for everyone to understand the
12 importance of keeping our existing nuclear plants
13 operational. As Pennsylvania pledges to reduce
14 carbon emissions, it must also make a commitment to
15 value nuclear power and do everything it can to
16 avoid closing any existing plants. We believe that
17 the RGGI program could be a mechanism to provide
18 appropriate value to nuclear energy. We strongly
19 encourage the Governor and the General Assembly to
20 work together and find a way to value the clean and
21 reliable electricity that nuclear power provides.

22 We hope that a significant portion of
23 the revenues created by this program will be
24 dedicated to meeting our carbon reduction goals by
25 properly valuing nuclear energy.

1 There is no better example of the need
2 for Pennsylvania to act now than the recent decision
3 by Energy Harbor to rescind its previously announced
4 shutdown order for the Beaver Valley Nuclear
5 Facility. Their announcement specifically cited
6 Pennsylvania's proposal to join RGGI in 2022.

7 Exelon acknowledged the need for
8 reform when they stated prior to the closure of
9 Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant that the station
10 would prematurely shut down absent policy reform due
11 to economic challenges and market flaws that failed
12 to recognize the environmental and resiliency
13 benefits from TMI and other zero-carbon nuclear
14 energy plants across the Commonwealth.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, David.

16 MR. HOWELL: We applaud Pennsylvania's
17 steps to reduce emissions by entering the RGGI in
18 2022 and we believe that the carbon-free baseload
19 electric generation provided by nuclear plants is
20 essential for Pennsylvania to reduce the 163 million
21 tons of carbon through 2030. Thank you very much
22 for this opportunity to speak.

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you. Thank you,
24 David.

25 Our speaker, Number 12, is Robert

1 Sroufe, Sroufe (changes pronunciation).

2 MR. SROUFE: Yes, I'm here.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Go ahead, Robert.

4 MR. SROUFE: My name is Robert Sroufe
5 --- thank you. Robert Sroufe. My last name is
6 spelled S-R-O-U-F, like Father, E. I live in
7 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And I'm testifying as a
8 private citizen.

9 Members of the Environmental Quality
10 Board, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
11 today. I'm here today to support joining RGGI. I
12 am the Murrin Chair of Global Competitiveness at
13 Duquesne University's MBA Sustainable Practices
14 Program in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The program is
15 ranked by the Corporate Heights as the number one
16 MBA program in the United States for integrating
17 sustainability into its curriculum, beating out the
18 likes of Penn, Harvard, Cornell, Sanford, MIT, Notre
19 Dame, and that list goes on.

20 One reason for my support is that
21 companies and governments are already measuring and
22 managing greenhouse gas emissions successfully.
23 It's good for business. One of my roles in this
24 program is to provide live consulting projects
25 involving sustainable business practices to multi-

1 national companies, small medium enterprises, and
2 city governments. My insights are from firsthand
3 experience with over 200 projects to date, measuring
4 greenhouse gas emissions, and aligning practices of
5 goals for sustainable development. We even have
6 entire countries approaching us to help them measure
7 and manage greenhouse gas emissions.

8 My next reason for supporting RGGI, I
9 would also note the price of greenhouse gas
10 emissions can provide financial benefits to
11 Pennsylvanians. This past January, one of my teams
12 with MBA business students presented our findings to
13 the representatives in Congress, and we found that
14 most Pennsylvanians would benefit from the Energy
15 Innovation and Carbon Dividends Act, or EICDA, which
16 puts a price on CO2 emissions. It is one of several
17 federal bills being considered by Congress regarding
18 regulations and prices on carbon dioxide emissions.

19 Pennsylvania's specific key findings
20 in that study and our research include an estimated
21 61 percent of all Pennsylvania households would
22 experience a net financial benefit as a result of
23 the dividend return, the greatest financial impacts
24 being for low income family households, particularly
25 in rural areas. Pennsylvanians would benefit from

1 the generation of an estimated 77,000 jobs by 2025
2 and almost 100,000 jobs by 2035. It would create
3 clean energy jobs through incentivizing investment
4 in energy innovation, instead of business-as-usual
5 polluting industry jobs, with a new average hourly
6 wage of 8 to 19 percent higher than the national
7 mean hourly wage.

8 If your takeaway is here, that there
9 are many benefits for putting a value on greenhouse
10 gas emissions. If you'd like to find a link to the
11 report, it's through the research and major
12 outfluence, everyone can Google Pennsylvanians Would
13 Benefit from the Energy Innovation and Carbon
14 Dividend Act.

15 Another reason for my support of RGGI
16 is that if you think that no one is already watching
17 greenhouse gas emissions, you would be wrong. The
18 Carbon Disclosure Project, or CDP, with \$100
19 trillion of investor money behind it, measures and
20 tracks CO2 emissions from all publically traded
21 firms along with some national governments, i.e.
22 cities, some states, to help them manage and dispose
23 of our non-impacts. My business fields already have
24 access to greenhouse gas emissions data and over 400
25 environmental social and governance performance

1 metrics for publically traded firms in the United
2 States.

3 The more personal reason why I'm
4 supporting RGGI, I live east of Pittsburgh. And
5 from my home, my family and I can see the smokestack
6 of the Cheswick Power Station, at one time the
7 nation --- this station was the sixth worst
8 polluting utility station in the United States. We
9 have air quality monitors in our home and within our
10 business school in downtown Pittsburgh.

11 What we have found is that the air
12 inside our homes and buildings is two to four times
13 better than stepping outside of them. This is in
14 part due to coal-powered utility stations like the
15 one in Cheswick. RGGI will help to reduce these
16 emissions and improve outdoor air quality and
17 improve human health and productivity at the same
18 time.

19 And I know that we don't like being
20 compared to China and China's air quality, where
21 4,000 people die from poor outdoor air quality every
22 day. RGGI would help the health of Pennsylvanians
23 and especially Pittsburghers, as we live in the
24 eighth worst polluted air quality city in the
25 nation. And that's a top ten list we do not want to

1 be part of anymore. For these reasons, my daughters
2 and family or my business students and their future,
3 and for the future of Pennsylvania and for many
4 other reasons I do not have time for, this future
5 for us includes RGGI. Innovation, better air
6 quality, jobs, better health, but not business as
7 usual.

8 I'm in favor of joining RGGI. It is
9 important that the DEP move deliberately and quickly
10 on the RGGI rule in the interest of meaningful
11 positive economic action and positive climate
12 action.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Robert.

15 Speaker 13 withdrew. So Speaker
16 Number 14 is Karen Poshefko.

17 MS. POSHEFKO: Good evening, everyone.
18 This is Karen Poshefko. That's K-A-R-E-N
19 P-O-S-H-E-F, like Frank, K-O. I'm a resident of
20 Emmaus, Pennsylvania. A sincere thanks to the DEP
21 and to the Environmental Quality Board for your
22 dedication to protect public health and safety. I
23 am testifying as an individual in support of the DEP
24 proposed RGGI regulation.

25 There have been two constants in my

1 life, a love of family and a deep appreciation for
2 nature. Climate change threatens both.

3 My husband and I have no children.
4 But we worry. What does the future hold for our
5 many nieces and nephews in a world plagued by
6 wildfires, drought, flooding, and air pollution.

7 As for my love of nature, I inherited
8 that from my family. I come from a long line of
9 hunters, anglers, and gardeners. But my parents
10 taught me that appreciation is not enough. I have a
11 responsibility to protect and conserve the precious
12 natural world that I love.

13 I have a varied background. I
14 graduated from Cedar Crest College with a double
15 major in business administration and sociology. I
16 worked in administrative support with the fossil
17 fuel injury. I did non-profit fundraising. Taught
18 English as a second language to adults and served as
19 an activity coordinator with the elderly. As I look
20 back over my long career, I believe that RGGI would
21 be a plus for every one of those populations: the
22 elderly, the poor, families, kids, those working in
23 the energy sector, all would benefit from cleaner
24 air, good paying jobs, and lower energy costs.

25 Do you remember the first book that

1 you read as a child? I do. And it was about
2 dinosaurs. The only thing I liked better than live
3 animals is learning about the ones that have been
4 dead for millions of years. Of course, the study of
5 dinosaurs is the study of extinction, which is the
6 study of climate change. Reading about our planet's
7 extinction events is fascinating. But witnessing
8 the deaths of whole ecosystems in real time is
9 heartbreaking for me. Remember, past global
10 extinction events were caused by natural causes.
11 This one is being caused by us.

12 How is climate change impacting me
13 personally? Well, I've lived in the same house and
14 tended the same garden for over 30 years. Daffodils
15 blooming in January, crazy? Not anymore.

16 I have experienced the negative
17 emotional and financial impact from a climate which
18 is out of balance. I've lost stately trees to
19 hurricanes, faced an increased risk of tick bites
20 when I work in my yard, witness unprecedented storm
21 water runoff on my property, and have listed too
22 many summer days when it is just too hot to go for a
23 walk.

24 While I've been following the climate
25 change issue for over 40 years, I am not a

1 climatologist nor an economist. So I respect the
2 data-driven research of peer-reviewed climate
3 scientists who urge us to act now. Likewise, I am
4 encouraged by economists and business leaders who
5 are showing us innovative pathways like RGGI to
6 address our share of climate crises.

7 Over the past decades, I volunteered
8 and supported various environmental conservation
9 organizations. In the past few years, however, I
10 have targeted my volunteerism to be directly
11 involved with promoting innovative climate pricing
12 models that mitigate climate change. So I have met
13 with local business leaders as well as with elected
14 officials at the local, state, and federal levels to
15 hear their views on the subject.

16 Punitive regulations are not the only
17 way to protect our environment. RGGI has been a
18 proven winner in other states. Let's get on board
19 to lower greenhouse gas emissions while we grow our
20 economy, create jobs, and protect public health.

21 A clean environment and a productive
22 economy are complementary. I've noted on the RGGI
23 website, climate change is the most critical
24 environmental threat confronting the world. Despite
25 this dire warning, I have hope for our future. We

1 Americans excel in coming together to innovate and
2 solve problems. RGGI would provide just such an
3 opportunity.

4 Members of the Environmental Quality
5 Board, please approve the RGGI regulation as soon as
6 possible. Thank you again for your service to our
7 communities and thank you for the opportunity to
8 speak.

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Karen.

10 Okay. We're going to see if our
11 interpreter is on the line. Do we have our
12 interpreter?

13 MR. JAGIELA: Her line is unmuted.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

15 It does not sound like that's working.

16 Okay.

17 Well, we'll try again in a little bit.

18 So let's go onto Speaker Number 15, Maya Rozin.

19 MS. ROZIN: Good evening. And thank
20 you for the opportunity to testify tonight in
21 support of Pennsylvania joining RGGI.

22 My name is Maya Rozin, spelled M-A-Y-A
23 R-O-Z-I-N. And I am a senior at Strath Haven High
24 School, living in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. For me,
25 the major turning point in my relationship with

1 environmental activism was when I read The Sixth
2 Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert in junior year. She
3 wrote about her travels to countries around the
4 world and how she witnessed the death of a species
5 in each one due to warming temperatures.

6 The reason for this, as she describes,
7 is that we're living in the Anthropocene, a time
8 period where humans have unparalleled influence over
9 the environment. If we continue to burn fossil
10 fuels, Kolbert writes that an irreversible chain
11 reaction will occur in just the next few decades,
12 eventually leading to the earth becoming
13 uninhabitable.

14 Reading this book was a complete shock
15 to me because I realized this climate crisis will
16 occur in my lifetime unless drastic changes are
17 made. As someone who loves nature but is too young
18 to have travelled extensively, I fear that I won't
19 be able to see a lot of the earth's beautiful
20 places. Climate change has the potential to rob me
21 of this opportunity.

22 However, I am also someone with a lot
23 of privilege. And marginalized communities are
24 already experiencing the effects of climate change.
25 Just a township over from me, the residents of

1 Chester are forced to breathe air with high levels
2 of industrial greenhouse gases, causing the American
3 Lung Association to give the township an F in air
4 quality in past years. In Pennsylvania, our
5 constitution guarantees the right to clean water to
6 drink and clean air to breathe. So failing to do
7 something for these communities is not only
8 negligent but unconstitutional.

9 As the fourth largest emitter of
10 greenhouse gases in the nation, Pennsylvania has a
11 responsibility to be a leader in implementing
12 climate solutions. We have the opportunity to do so
13 by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative,
14 or RGGI. This program has already proven effective,
15 with carbon pollution decreasing by 47 percent in
16 participating RGGI states from 2008 to 2018,
17 outpacing the rest of the country by 90 percent.

18 Carbon emissions in our state can be
19 reduced by 188 million tons by 2030 by joining the
20 program, equivalent to taking more than 36,000,000
21 cars off the road. If we join RGGI, this reduction
22 in carbon emissions would allow PA communities near
23 me, like Chester, to breathe easier.

24 We only have a few years to reduce our
25 emissions and prevent catastrophe. So it is

1 imperative that the DEP and Pennsylvania decision-
2 makers act accordingly.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Maya.

5 Our Speakers 16 and 17 are not here
6 this evening. Speaker Number 18 is Lael Campbell.

7 MR. CAMPBELL: Hi, there. Can you
8 hear me?

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can. Please go
10 ahead.

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Great.

12 Thanks. And I didn't realize that the
13 two people ahead of me had left. So I'm going to
14 pull up my thing here.

15 Okay. Great.

16 Well, good evening. My name is Lael
17 Campbell, L-A-E-L C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L. I'm based out of
18 Washington, D.C. and I'm Vice President of State
19 Government Affairs for Exelon Corporation.

20 So on behalf of the Exelon family of
21 companies operating in Pennsylvania, I want to offer
22 our support of the Pennsylvania DEP's proposed rule
23 that would allow Pennsylvania to participate in the
24 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. We urge DEP to
25 finalize this rule in time to enter RGGI on January

1 1st, 2022 and would like to underscore the
2 importance of avoiding undue delay so the timeline
3 can be met. Exelon is a long-time member of the
4 Pennsylvania business community and has a long
5 history of working to meet Pennsylvania's energy
6 needs, while at the same time, working to make the
7 air citizens breathe cleaner and healthier. The
8 Exelon family of companies includes competitive
9 retail supplier constellation as well as the
10 utility, PECO, who combine to directly serve several
11 million Pennsylvania customers.

12 Exelon Generation is the country's and
13 the Commonwealth's largest producer of emissions-
14 free electricity, with a clean portfolio that
15 includes nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, and solar
16 generation. Collectively, Exelon has an estimated
17 annual economic impact of \$4.5 billion in
18 Pennsylvania, supporting more than 9,600 jobs and
19 producing \$768 million labor income in the state.

20 Turning to the DEP's rulemaking,
21 Exelon supports the proposed emissions budget of 78
22 million tons in 2022, decreasing to 58 million tons
23 in 2030. We believe this starting point for the
24 budget, which is essentially current emissions, and
25 decreasing in coordination with other RGGI states,

1 strikes the right balance by setting up a framework
2 for meaningful emissions reductions while minimizing
3 consumer costs.

4 This budget level also retains and, in
5 fact, likely encourages maintenance of
6 Pennsylvania's status as an electricity exporter,
7 particularly exporting to other RGGI states who has
8 a stated preference for cleaner electricity.

9 Lastly, we have heard concerns
10 expressed that the 2030 budget level is too close to
11 a business-as-usual case, so joining RGGI would be a
12 wasted effort. We respectfully --- we respectfully
13 disagree and note that the nine million tons that
14 the DEP estimates will be avoided per year by 2030
15 is itself significant. Unlike nitrogen oxides or
16 other pollutants that have limited effect across
17 just years or months, CO2 accumulates in the
18 atmosphere for hundreds of years, thus it is the
19 cumulative emissions that matter more than any
20 particular annual variation. And the 163 million
21 tons of CO2, DEP projects RGGI will decrease within
22 Pennsylvania over only eight years, are indeed
23 significant.

24 We understand others have raised the
25 suggestion that this important regulatory action

1 should be delayed should be delayed due to COVID-19.
2 We urge DEP not to delay for two main reasons.
3 First, the regulatory timeline would only enable
4 Pennsylvania to join RGGI in 2022, still more than a
5 year away. Second, the value of clean air has never
6 been more clear, as these important protections
7 should not be delayed, particularly given the new
8 understanding about the interaction with COVID-19
9 and poor air quality.

10 Moreover, entering into RGGI on
11 January 1st, 2022 at the identified budget level is
12 critical to the continued operation of the
13 Commonwealth's remaining nuclear plants. The value
14 of RGGI to preserving nuclear capacity was
15 highlighted recently by Energy Harbor Corporation's
16 announcement to rescind the shutdown decision for
17 the Beaver Valley Nuclear Facility.

18 The reversal announcement specifically
19 cited Pennsylvania's decision to begin this
20 regulatory process in time for a 2022 program start
21 date and cautioned that any delay could affect this
22 decision.

23 RGGI sends a positive price signal to
24 clean generation resources through the wholesale
25 energy markets. And the strength of that signal is

1 a direct consequence of whether the budget is set
2 appropriately. In addition, RGGI will provide
3 nearly \$400 million annually to the Commonwealth,
4 providing the means to further reduce air pollution.

5 These funds should also be used to
6 provide additional assistance to low-income
7 customers in meeting their energy burdens and for
8 weatherization and building repair programs that
9 will reduce the long-term need for energy
10 assistance. Joining RGGI provides Pennsylvania with
11 a proven efficient tool to begin addressing carbon
12 pollution and support the preservation and
13 deployment of clean sources of electricity,
14 including nuclear.

15 We urge Pennsylvania DEP to continue
16 this process with the urgency it deserves in order
17 to achieve a January 1st, 2022 program start date.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to
19 provide this testimony this evening.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Lael.

21 Is our Speaker 19, Donald Brown, on
22 the line?

23 MR. JAGIELA: He is not.

24 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay. Thank you, Darek.
25 Speaker Number 20, Milo Trauss.

1 MR. TRAUSS: My name is Milo Trauss,
2 spelled --- I have it written here. M-I-L-O
3 T-R-A-U-S-S. I'm calling from Philadelphia.

4 A lot of my comments, I think, have
5 been --- a lot of my content has been said by
6 previous speakers. But there's still a few things I
7 could add; that I'm in enthusiastic support of
8 Pennsylvania joining this RGGI. It's exciting, it's
9 fun. That Pennsylvania has an opportunity to kind
10 of pivot and go in a new direction and it's so
11 influential and has such a big impact, knock-on
12 ripple effects.

13 I just want to tell a little bit about
14 myself --- my own situation is that a lot of the
15 time we kind of pivoted --- or it's pitted in terms
16 of like the jobs, you know. We can save the
17 environment but it will be bad for jobs. And I'm in
18 a position where I'm seeing all of the ---
19 especially with the new federal administration, I'm
20 seeing all the potential new jobs. And other people
21 have spoken to this before, about all the new job
22 creation if we invest in green energy. And I'm
23 looking for one of those jobs. I would like to take
24 one in residential/commercial building retrofits, or
25 permitting, constructing new green energy

1 production.

2 Also there is an enormous potential
3 for shifting people in the existing energy
4 production, fossil energy production, into --- to
5 have these same --- a lot of these same talents, you
6 know, energy production, for example, is the same
7 folks can work on green energy as on fossil energy.

8 And you know, yeah, we can spend it on
9 taking care of people who are close to the end of
10 their careers to make sure that they're not brought
11 along. But things like --- you know, especially in
12 light of Exelon being on board, that a lot of that
13 negotiating has taken place behind the scenes. And
14 there's a broad coalition of people who are in
15 support of moving forward with this proposal.

16 Another thing I wanted to bring up was
17 some of the revenue that's generated by joining
18 RGGI, it's important that that's reinvested in
19 communities that have been suffering from the
20 consequences --- suffering the most from the
21 consequences of our past carbon emitting and
22 contamination petroleum practices. And
23 specifically, Grays Ferry comes to mind in
24 Philadelphia. I used to work in this part of town.
25 And there's a famous refinery over there in

1 southwest Philly. And the residents there are
2 getting sick. And it's been a story for a long
3 time. It was like, you know, something of lore.

4 But the New York Times this year came
5 out with, like, a deep dive into the rates of cancer
6 and other infirmities for residents in this part of
7 town. And these are also the same --- they're
8 recent immigrants, they're low income, they're
9 African-American. It's the same populations that
10 are part of a racist legacy in this country. And so
11 now it's another thing that makes me inspired to see
12 Pennsylvania move forward with RGGI, is that we'll
13 have a chance to raise money and spend it to create
14 a better world for everybody.

15 And the last note is just that, you
16 don't remember that --- I heard this quote recently
17 that we don't inherit the earth from our ancestors,
18 but we're borrowing it from our children. And just
19 to keep that in mind as we're making these decisions
20 today, that we adopt this as proposed and we stay in
21 our timeline and that we can be good stewards for,
22 you know, everything that we're enjoying in our
23 day-to-day lives, so that we can ensure that folks
24 in the future can have the same high quality. So
25 thanks so much. And I'll yield the --- only one

1 minute, I guess, for the rest of the hearing.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Milo.

4 Speaker Number 21, Clare Boone.

5 MS. BOONE: Hi. My name is Clare
6 Boone, C-L-A-R-E B-O-O-N-E. I'm from Stewartstown,
7 Pennsylvania, which is a small town in southern York
8 County. And I'm just speaking as a private citizen.

9 I am speaking in favor of RGGI because I grew up in
10 a small rural community in southcentral
11 Pennsylvania. And I saw throughout my childhood a
12 lot of rural poverty and lots of people struggling
13 to find jobs in Pennsylvania. And I know that this
14 is an issue that affects so many rural communities
15 across Pennsylvania. And I really want to draw
16 attention to the positive economic impact that RGGI
17 can bring, not just for skilled workers who are
18 experts in clean energy technologies, but also the
19 substantial impact that RGGI can have on low-income
20 rural Pennsylvanians across the state.

21 As was previously mentioned, I think
22 there's also often a false dichotomy that is drawn,
23 people that resist climate change reform often say
24 that for environmental protection and to combat
25 climate change, it will hurt our economy. But the

1 experience that other northeastern states have had
2 with RGGI is --- tells the complete opposite story.

3 Over 2009 to 2014, RGGI dropped emissions by 35
4 percent across the region, compared to 12 percent in
5 non-RGGI states. While RGGI state economies also
6 grew 21 percent, compared to 18 percent in non-RGGI
7 states.

8 So clearly the RGGI initiative can
9 have progress in reducing greenhouse grasses and
10 also contribute to economic growth in a really
11 substantial way. Ever since the program began, RGGI
12 states have experienced a net gain in economic
13 growth, increased jobs, long-run electricity cost
14 reductions, and decreased emissions.

15 And the income that is generated from
16 RGGI will be invested back into renewable energy
17 infrastructure right here in Pennsylvania, which
18 will creates so many jobs and have a direct economic
19 impact as well that will really boost the economy
20 and bring a lot of jobs to rural Pennsylvania.

21 Renewable energy technologies have a
22 lot of economic advantages. They're labor intensive
23 so they generally create more jobs per dollar
24 invested than conventional electricity generation
25 technologies. And they will use resources here in

1 Pennsylvania, so that the energy dollars that
2 Pennsylvanians spend will actually be reinvested
3 into Pennsylvania and not going out of state to
4 wherever we are importing electricity from.

5 And that is a huge economic --- that
6 will have a huge economic impact and it's really a
7 lost opportunity if we don't start investing and
8 producing clean energy here in Pennsylvania.

9 Just to illustrate how much of an
10 impact it will make to have renewable energy
11 produced here in Pennsylvania that Pennsylvanians
12 can buy. Wisconsin, for example, imports 94 percent
13 of its electricity. And in 1992, more than 6
14 billion of Wisconsin's 8.1 billion total energy bill
15 left the state. That's the equivalent of \$1,200 per
16 resident just leaving the state to wherever people
17 were producing energy and sending it into Wisconsin.

18 So instead of having an economic model
19 like that, we can use the funds from RGGI to invest
20 in renewable energy infrastructure here in
21 Pennsylvania, so people that are paying for this
22 renewable energy will be investing that money into
23 Pennsylvania workers who can invest the money into
24 Pennsylvania communities all across Pennsylvania.
25 And rural Pennsylvania, where I grew up in, really

1 needs jobs and economic opportunities like this.
2 And it is not going to come from fossil fuels.

3 We saw the Trump administration talk
4 for the last four years about reinvesting in coal
5 and producing new coal plants and creating coal
6 jobs. And their inability to do this just speaks to
7 the fact that coal is not the future. And the
8 future is creating jobs here in Pennsylvania and
9 creating Pennsylvania energy that people can invest
10 back into Pennsylvania workers and the Pennsylvania
11 economy; it really starts with this RGGI initiative.
12 So I am strongly in support of the RGGI initiative.

13 And thank you for letting me speak
14 here tonight.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Clare.

16 Speaker Number 22, Bruce Birchard. Is
17 Bruce with us?

18 MR. BIRCHARD: Hello. Can you hear
19 me?

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Bruce.
21 Please go ahead.

22 MR. BIRCHARD: Thank you very much.

23 My name is Bruce Birchard. I was born
24 in eastern Pennsylvania in 1945. I now live in
25 Glenn Mills, PA in Delaware County.

1 I am strongly in favor of Pennsylvania
2 joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I
3 agree with most of the speakers I've been listening
4 to over the last hour and a half about the
5 tremendous importance of the environmental benefits
6 of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. But what I'd
7 like to do is focus on the economic aspects of RGGI
8 in my testimony.

9 I'll start by noting the fact that
10 RGGI should generate more than \$2 billion in
11 proceeds for Pennsylvania by 2030. I believe these
12 funds should be used to stimulate and enhance clean
13 energy initiatives and industries as well as to
14 provide training programs for approximately 27,000
15 new green jobs over the next nine years.

16 Why is this so important for
17 Pennsylvania? Well, because like it or not, the
18 world of energy is entering a period of enormous
19 change. And these changes cannot be stopped by
20 politicians who want to maintain or expand our
21 fossil fuel-based economy, keeping everything the
22 way it's been for the past decades.

23 Let me quote from a Washington Post
24 article on August 4th, 2020. I quote, the
25 London-based BP, it used to be British Petroleum,

1 BP, said it will transform itself by halting oil and
2 gas exploration in new countries, slashing oil and
3 gas production by 40 percent, lowering carbon
4 emissions by about one third, and boosting capital
5 spending on low-carbon energy ten fold to five
6 billion dollars.

7 This makes BP the first super major to
8 spell out in detail what the energy transition will
9 actually entail in practical terms, said Pavel
10 Molchanov, senior energy analyst for the investment
11 firm Raymond James.

12 Right now, we know that a divided
13 congress --- US Congress may make it difficult for
14 the Biden administration to pass major green energy
15 legislation. But profound regulatory changes are
16 taking shape in financial markets. And those are
17 very important.

18 It's worth noting that Jerome Powell
19 has asked to join the Network for Greening the
20 Financial System, a global organization of central
21 banks, exploring the financial risks of climate
22 change. We might also note that Janet Yelen, our
23 incoming Secretary of the Treasury, is a founding
24 member of the Climate Leadership Counsel. This
25 bipartisan group is actively supporting a carbon tax

1 and dividend plan which would initiate a market-
2 based process that would move our economy, the US
3 economy, in the direction of clean energy sources.

4 According to Sanjay Patnaik,
5 Director of the Center on Regulation and Markets,
6 writing about the systemic risks of climate change
7 to the US economy, and I quote, if the economic
8 impact of climate change is incorporated at every
9 level of decision-making throughout the government,
10 it will send important signals to markets and steer
11 resources toward low carbon --- in turn will
12 complement the already emerging market trends of
13 large investors who are incentivizing companies to
14 address their exposure to climate risks.

15 So I want to stress that enormous
16 changes in energy markets and a greener economy are
17 definitely coming. Our state cannot or at least
18 should not stick its head in the sand and pretend
19 otherwise. RGGI provides an important opportunity
20 for Pennsylvania to get with the program and support
21 new and existing clean energy industries.

22 Let's build a vibrant, clean energy
23 economy which could create 27,000 new good paying
24 jobs and expand Pennsylvania's economy by some \$2
25 billion by 2030. This is especially urgent because

1 the COVID pandemic has caused us to lose tens of
2 thousands of jobs statewide. In sum, we need RGGI
3 for economic reasons as well as environmental
4 reasons.

5 I want to thank you and the DEP for
6 this opportunity to testify. And thank you
7 especially for holding these hearings virtually. It
8 allows many more people, including retired people
9 like me, to participate safely.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Bruce. I'm
12 told that our interpreter is on the line. Leila
13 Martin, are you with us, Leila?

14 MS. MARTIN: Yes, I am here.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay. And Rosa --- Rosa
16 Maria Miguel, are you with us, Rosa?

17 MS. MIGUEL: Great.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Please go ahead.

19 MS. MIGUEL: Good afternoon or good
20 evening. My name is Rosa Maria Miguel. I am
21 originally from Mexico but I live in York,
22 Pennsylvania. I arrived to this country 15 years
23 ago to look for some --- for an opportunity.

24 I am currently married and I have two
25 beautiful children. I am a member of CASA, an

1 organization that fights for the rights --- the
2 rights of Latinos and immigrants in Pennsylvania.

3 It is not a secret that climate change
4 is affecting disproportionately to our communities.

5 My family and I see it every year with
6 the floods, the floods that we suffer in York, and
7 how that affects our basement being flooded.

8 These --- I support RGGI because I
9 believe our state needs a change in the way we do
10 policy in the environment. And we need that change
11 for our sake and for our children's sake.

12 We know that Pennsylvania is one of
13 the most polluting states. For these reasons, it's
14 important that we work together, residents of
15 Pennsylvania, businesses, and our legislature, to
16 find measures that not increase the level of
17 pollution --- not just to decrease the level of
18 pollution coming from fossil fuel industry, but also
19 we create a Pennsylvania that is more a principle
20 fair and economically stronger.

21 To finish, I would like to say that we
22 have the obligation to use RGGI as a step forward to
23 fight against racial injustice. And for these
24 reasons, we should use the funding that these
25 programs may create to improve the quality of life

1 of the most affected communities.

2 For instance, developing more green
3 spaces or finding solutions to the big problem of
4 lead that our cities in central Pennsylvania are
5 suffering. And that is affecting the health of our
6 children.

7 I want to thank you for giving me the
8 opportunity to say this piece so voices like mine
9 are to be encouraged. Thank you so much and good
10 evening.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Rosa and
12 Leila.

13 Okay. I am told that Donald Brown
14 actually was with us. He just couldn't speak.

15 Do we have Donald now?

16 MR. BROWN: Can you hear me?

17 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Donald.
18 Please go ahead.

19 MR. BROWN: Okay. I'm sorry about
20 that.

21 MS. GRIFFIN: No problem.

22 MR. BROWN: Let's see. I am Donald
23 Brown. I am Scholar in Residence for Sustainability
24 Ethics and Law at Widener University Law School. I
25 am testifying on behalf of myself.

1 For 35 years, I've had the highest
2 front row seat on climate change issues. I was a
3 negotiator for the United States at the UN on
4 climate change issues. I have --- I'm an IPCC
5 author on ethics and sustainable development.

6 My comments are my own. I thank DEP
7 for proposing the RGGI rule. And I'm going to focus
8 my attention on issues that I believe that people
9 don't understand about climate change, which I
10 attribute to the fact that sociologists predicted
11 that the public debate would be framed by the
12 opponents of climate change. For 35 years, I've
13 watched the fossil fuel industry stop both the
14 United States and Pennsylvania from adopting
15 policies. And there are aspects of climate change
16 that you have to understand to --- to get some of
17 the issues that are still not being understood
18 fully.

19 Now, the opponents of climate change
20 have framed their opposition for 35 years on
21 scientific uncertainty and cost to the government.
22 And most of the environmental groups have been
23 tricked by following those issues. Most of the
24 debate has been counter claims about scientific
25 uncertainty or the fact that climate change will

1 create jobs.

2 There are theses of climate change
3 that you have to understand to get some of the
4 issues I'm going to talk about. One is climate
5 change is really different than other environmental
6 problems in profoundly important ways, which
7 requires different policy responses.

8 Greenhouse gasses mix surprisingly
9 relatively uniform in the atmosphere, thus created
10 climate change harms worldwide, not only to
11 Pennsylvania.

12 What this means is that climate ---
13 greenhouse gas emissions from Pennsylvania and the
14 United States are partially responsible for the
15 harms --- the horrific harms that are already being
16 experienced and will be experienced more in the
17 future.

18 Another feature of climate change is
19 to achieve any warming limit goal, the whole world
20 must work together to stabilize atmospheric
21 concentrations to a specific level.

22 A consequence of this is that there is
23 a carbon budget that the whole world must live
24 within to achieve any warming limit goal. And
25 another policy consequences of this, it's not only

1 the failure to reduce emissions to a target --- a
2 specific target, which is --- is needed. The speed
3 of reducing greenhouse gases is incredibly important
4 because emissions are reducing the carbon budget
5 that is available for any warming limit goal.

6 So to set a greenhouse gas target,
7 you're implicitly taking a position on three issues.
8 And Pennsylvania, I believe, like other governments,
9 should explain what warming limit goal the
10 Pennsylvania target is seeking to achieve. Only if
11 you know that, can you effectively critically
12 evaluate what the target is.

13 So the target is taking the position
14 on a warming --- a warming limit goal. It's also
15 implicitly taking a position on carbon budgets that
16 are available to achieve that warming limit goal.
17 And it's also implicitly taking a position on
18 equity.

19 One of the issues which is never
20 discussed but which is so, so important from a
21 policy perspective, is that the 1992 treaty, the
22 world agreed to reduce --- to set --- adopt policies
23 that would prevent dangerous climate change based
24 upon equity.

25 MS. GRIFFIN: I'm sorry, Donald, but

1 we've actually run out of time. If you would please
2 send us your written testimony to
3 regcomments@pa.gov, we'll make sure that we get all
4 of your comments uploaded and they're considered in
5 our comment and response document, please.

6 MR. BROWN: Okay.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Mark Szybist.

9 MR. SZYBIST: Good evening.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Go ahead, Mark. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. SZYBIST: Thank you.

13 Good evening and thank you for the
14 opportunity to comment on the DEP's proposed CO2
15 budget trading program.

16 My name is Mark Szybist. I'm a senior
17 attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council
18 and I'm speaking on behalf of NRDC tonight. NRDC is
19 a nationwide member-based environmental organization
20 with more than 90,000 members and supporters in the
21 Commonwealth. I lead our Pennsylvania Climate and
22 Clean Energy Board.

23 NRDC strongly supports Pennsylvania's
24 participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
25 Initiative because based on RGGI's past performance

1 and on analysis done by the DEP, NRDC, and others,
2 it's clear that RGGI will enable the Commonwealth
3 both to reduce carbon pollution and to invest in the
4 equitable clean energy economy that Pennsylvania
5 needs. We therefore ask the Environmental Quality
6 Board to promulgate the DEP's proposed rulemaking as
7 a final regulation with some modifications that
8 we'll detail in our written comments.

9 In my remaining time tonight, I want
10 to situate RGGI within two important stories, one
11 about energy in Pennsylvania and the other about the
12 relationship between climate policy on one hand and
13 justice on the other. NRDC believes that RGGI is
14 the next chapter the Commonwealth writes in both
15 stories.

16 The Pennsylvania energy story is a
17 familiar one. And I've told it several times during
18 these public hearings already. Mostly, as folks
19 know, it's about fossil fuels. Pennsylvania coal
20 fueled the industrial revolution, the drilling of
21 the world's first commercial oil well in Titusville.
22 The fact that for many Pennsylvanians over the
23 years, the extraction and burning of fossil fuels
24 has represented a chance at a middle class life.
25 And of course the pollution and sickness and death

1 that extracting and burning fossil fuels has
2 brought.

3 People are in strain, the scarred
4 landscapes, the choked lungs, the changing climate.

5 By the start of the current century,
6 both the causes and the dangers of climate change
7 have long been clear. And it was apparent that
8 there were viable alternatives to burning fossil
9 fuels. So Pennsylvania began to look toward a clean
10 energy future.

11 In 2004, the general assembly
12 established renewable energy targets in the
13 Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act. In
14 2008, the legislature would require electric
15 utilities to establish efficiency and conservation
16 programs and required the DEP to study the impacts
17 of climate change and make recommendations on how to
18 address it.

19 And, of course, even as those laws
20 were being written, something else was starting in
21 Pennsylvania. Fracking. And from an energy
22 perspective, the decade between 2010 and 2020 was
23 about nothing, if not shale gas and the
24 legislature's romance with shale gas.

25 For the climate and clean energy

1 policy, it was mostly a lost decade. With the
2 urgent need to address climate change honored mostly
3 in the breach or reframed as a problem that
4 Pennsylvania could somehow solve by burning gas,
5 which of course it can't.

6 My second story is about the
7 relationship between environmentalism and climate
8 policy on one hand and racial and economic justice
9 on the other.

10 As proud as we are and should be of
11 Rachel Carson in Pennsylvania, the environmental
12 movement in the United States didn't start with
13 silent spring, the pesticides and songbirds. It
14 began with working people in the country's
15 industrial economy and people in the cities whose
16 health was affected by that economy. It began with
17 textile and paper mills, tanneries, dynamite
18 factories, slaughterhouses, and various other
19 industries.

20 The pollution of those industries
21 produced a danger to public health and danger to
22 industries workers. And for that reason, labor
23 unions were leaders in fighting pollution. In 1967,
24 to take a fair example, the United Auto Workers
25 established the Department of Conservation and

1 Resource Development, quote, because our members and
2 their families are directly affected by the
3 environment around them both inside and outside of
4 the plants where they work.

5 But then two things happened. First,
6 after World War II, the environmental and labor
7 movements achieved tremendous success in passing
8 laws to control pollution and worker safety.
9 Second, and more importantly, starting in the 1970s,
10 policy makers began to change the US economy in ways
11 that made the lives of working people increasingly
12 insecure.

13 The Ohio River Valley institute
14 recently published an analysis concluding that if
15 policymakers do nothing, more than 7 in 10 of the
16 annual job openings in the region between now and
17 2028 will pay less than what it takes to meet
18 minimum standards of living. The policy decisions
19 that created these circumstances are many. And they
20 happened in many areas. The point is that the
21 circumstances are largely the result of policy
22 decisions and not the work of the market's invisible
23 hand. And policy decisions can reverse the trend,
24 especially policy decisions to drive the creation of
25 good-paying clean energy jobs.

1 Bayard Rustin, the great civil rights
2 leader from West Chester, once criticized the
3 abolitionist movement because the abolitionists
4 viewed slavery solely as a moral problem. In recent
5 years, the climate movement has begun to recognize
6 that it needs an economic and social program for
7 climate change. And because of past and continuing
8 racism in the US, also an anti-racist program.

9 The DEP has already heard some version
10 of these truths from many commenters. I'll close by
11 reiterating that the RGGI can be, and the DEP should
12 make it, not just a program to cut carbon pollution
13 but put Pennsylvania back on the clean energy path
14 it abandoned when fracking arrived, but also a
15 program to invest in environmental justice
16 communities and communities being affected by the
17 transition away from fossil fuels.

18 Thank you very much for the extra
19 time. I really appreciate it.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Mark.

21 Speaker Number 24, Brian Dugas.

22 MR. DUGAS: Good evening. My name is
23 Brian --- hello? Yes. My name is Brian Dugas,
24 B-R-I-A-N D-U-G-A-S. I'm from Allentown. I am a
25 private citizen. I'd like to thank you for giving

1 me this opportunity to provide testimony for the
2 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. While I think
3 it is a step in the right direction, it clearly is
4 just the beginning of a movement that is long
5 overdue.

6 The Pennsylvania Constitution states
7 in Article I, Section 27, the people have a right to
8 clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of
9 the natural scenic, historic, and aesthetic values
10 of the environment.

11 Pennsylvania's public natural
12 resources are the common property of all people,
13 including generations yet to come. As a trustee of
14 these resources, the Commonwealth shall serve and
15 maintain them for the benefit of all people.

16 As elected trustees of these resources
17 and representatives of the residents of this state,
18 I am here to request that you make this initiative
19 your priority. I am a veteran, educator, outdoor
20 enthusiast, and active volunteer for my community
21 and the country. I have just completed serving two
22 years in Tanzania East Africa with the Peace Corps
23 and was evacuated in March of this year due to the
24 COVID pandemic.

25 I have had the misfortune of observing

1 the effect of climate change on the environment and
2 our country and in Africa, where the lack of
3 rainfall has devastated crops, causing widespread
4 hunger, suffering, and increased poverty. According
5 to the farmers there, this change in rainfall
6 amounts started about 20 years ago and has
7 progressively gotten worse over the years.

8 When asked what they could do to
9 change it, their accusations were turned right back
10 on me as a representative of the West. They know
11 full well that the biggest contributors to climate
12 change are the western countries. And I am here
13 today to ask you to start taking responsibility for
14 what this state contributes to the global gas
15 emissions and, more importantly, to take action.

16 As an educator, it's fascinating for
17 me to see the youth of the world taking action on
18 something that the adults either don't want to see,
19 or worse, don't care about. The young people I
20 served with in the Peace Corps and the students I
21 taught in classrooms are fed up with the denials and
22 are demanding action.

23 Politically, I have always considered
24 myself neutral, having been a supporter of both
25 parties over the years and registering independent

1 most recently. But that time is coming to a close.
2 This issue is important enough to drive me and many
3 young people into the ranks of whichever party has
4 the intestinal fortitude to take the lead.

5 While this initiative is a step in the
6 right direction, it's far from the total action
7 needed to make a significant change in the world.
8 And yet even this half-way measure to reduce
9 emissions from the biggest contributors in the state
10 are resisted by the very trustees who are required
11 by the Pennsylvania Constitution to conserve and
12 maintain our environment for the benefit of all.

13 We are all watching. The future
14 generations are watching. And they are actively
15 engaged. The day when politics and money can
16 control the future of the environment are coming to
17 an end. And this state needs to be on the right
18 side of the issue when it does.

19 I am asking that for the sake of our
20 children, our children's children, to not only
21 improve this initiative, but dedicate any funds
22 gained towards other clean energy programs. And
23 beyond that, to make saving our planet a priority in
24 every decision that you make as you are representing
25 the people of the Commonwealth.

1 Along with the rest of the world, our
2 children are listening and watching. And we all
3 look forward to your decision to support this
4 initiative.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Brian.
7 Speaker 25, Cynthia, will not be with us tonight.
8 Speaker Number 26, Sylvia Neely, are you ready?

9 MS. NEELY: I am. Can you hear me?

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Sylvia.
11 Please go ahead and start.

12 MS. NEELY: Thank you.

13 My name is Sylvia Neely, that's
14 S-Y-L-V-I-A. And the last name is N-E-E-L-Y. And
15 I'm very fortunate to live in State College,
16 Pennsylvania, where I am able to enjoy the great
17 resources of the main campus of Penn State. This
18 fall, I followed closely the presentations given by
19 the Penn State Center for Energy, Law, and Policy,
20 that gave the conclusions of research that center
21 had carried out this year on the impacts that
22 joining RGGI would have for Pennsylvania. The
23 lectures were excellent, bringing together
24 knowledgeable experts from several different fields.

25 My written remarks include links to

1 the recordings of the presentations. If you have
2 not already done so, I urge you to get in touch with
3 Professor Seth Blumsack, the head of the Center for
4 Energy, Law and Policy and an expert on energy
5 economics. His e-mail is also in my written
6 testimony.

7 The first presentation by Professor
8 Joel Landry focused on the economic consequences of
9 joining RGGI and concluded that net economic
10 benefits are greater than the costs of the program.
11 The second presentation focused on the health
12 benefits. Professor Wei Peng concluded that the
13 benefits from savings on health costs are actually
14 greater than what the DAP (sic) had estimated
15 because the researchers were able to use county data
16 and more specific statistics. Indeed, the health
17 co-benefits are greater than the net economic
18 benefit for Pennsylvania.

19 The third presentation by Professor
20 Daniel Walters of the Penn State Law School explored
21 the various legal issues regarding RGGI and he found
22 that RGGI was legal under the laws of Pennsylvania.
23 I found especially valuable and heartening his
24 discussion of the way the auction revenue could be
25 reinvested.

1 The final lecture by Professor Daniel
2 J. Mallinson of Penn State Harrisburg explored the
3 ways RGGI would work along with Act 129 and Act 213.
4 The possibilities for using the revenues are
5 expensive, including areas such as forests, grants
6 to municipalities for carbon dioxide emissions
7 reductions and to the dairy industry for methane
8 reduction.

9 Economists of every political
10 persuasion urge a price on carbon as the first step
11 in solving the climate crisis. Once the costs of
12 the externalities of fossil fuel use are factored
13 in, the market will be able to find the cheapest and
14 most efficient ways of making the transition to
15 renewable energy. RGGI is a method of pricing
16 carbon. And one that is compatible with a strong
17 economy for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

18 Now is the time to begin to make this
19 transition as we rebuild our economy after the
20 pandemic. If we do not do so, the American economy
21 will be left behind as the rest of the world
22 develops the technologies of the future.

23 Already, other countries are pricing
24 carbon. And the European Union is threatening
25 border costs for imports from countries that have

1 not done so. For our own economic wellbeing, it is
2 essential that we prepare to take our place in the
3 economy of the future, which will rely on new
4 technologies and renewable energy.

5 There's no reason to hesitate since
6 research shows that joining RGGI will be good for
7 the economy. I'm very pleased that in my area, the
8 six municipalities in the Centre region, as well as
9 the Borough of Bellefonte, have initiated ambitious
10 climate action plans. These local efforts will be
11 more likely to succeed with support of state action
12 and with the possibility of grants from the revenues
13 that RGGI will generate.

14 I volunteer with Citizens Climate
15 Lobby. Our efforts to pass federal legislation to
16 price carbon and distribute all the proceeds to
17 households in the form of a dividend are completely
18 compatible with RGGI. Pennsylvania needs to look to
19 the future. They need to listen to experts who can
20 help us to do so in a responsible way.

21 I urge you to listen, not to me, who
22 am no expert in this field, but to the economists,
23 policy makers, and scientists who have the data to
24 back up this conclusion. We need to join RGGI.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Sylvia.

2 Our next speaker, Number 27, is Rachel
3 Golman.

4 MS. GOLMAN: Can you hear me?

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Rachel.
6 Please go ahead and start.

7 MS. GOLMAN: All right. Great. Thank
8 you.

9 Hi. My name is Rachel Golman, and I
10 live in Pittsburgh. And thank you for the
11 opportunity to speak tonight and, most importantly,
12 thank you for initiating this rulemaking for
13 Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas
14 Initiative.

15 With RGGI, we have the opportunity to
16 make progress on addressing the climate crisis and
17 helping grow our economy by building clean energy
18 and reducing Pennsylvania residents' electric bills.

19 In southwest Pennsylvania, where I
20 live, we are surrounded by power plants, many of
21 which continue to burn coal. We are paying the
22 price for the pollution emitted from these plants
23 with our quality of life and in medical bills as we
24 experience poor air quality and the resulting health
25 consequences, including elevated asthma attacks,

1 other respiratory disorders, and heart attacks. We
2 also have been seeing the impacts of climate change
3 grow at an ever-increasing pace with hotter summers
4 that exacerbate our air quality problems, warmer
5 winters that are destroying our winter recreation
6 industry, and a myriad of other impacts that are
7 challenging our region's farmers and driving up
8 their cost of operation.

9 My children are five and three years
10 old, and I worry what their future holds. I worry
11 that by living in the place we love, that we are
12 subjecting their young lungs to pollution that may
13 have life-long health consequences. Eli, my
14 youngest, has thank goodness not yet been diagnosed
15 with asthma, but he has an inhaler nebulizer. And
16 we've had to use it on some of the worst air quality
17 days, which are becoming more numerous every year.
18 I worry that they and their peers will be left to
19 bear the incredible economic burden, upheaval, and
20 devastation that climate change will cause if we
21 continue on our current path.

22 A few years ago, we installed solar
23 panels on our home. We are very fortunate and
24 privileged to be in a position to do this. We were
25 able to put the money up front and have seen a

1 decrease in our electric bills as a result. But
2 I've talked to many, many families who would love to
3 see solar on their roofs and simply can't afford it.

4 If these families lived over the
5 border in New York, however, they'd be able to tap
6 into a number of rooftop solar programs, many funded
7 through RGGI, to make this a much more affordable
8 option.

9 Families throughout Pennsylvania who
10 are struggling to pay their electric bills can
11 benefit from efficiency programs and jobs
12 implementing those programs.

13 I've lived in Pennsylvania for 20
14 years. But I grew up in western New York and have
15 family in several parts of that state. When I am in
16 New York, the difference in investment in clean
17 energy is immediately apparent. All one needs to do
18 is take a drive through any neighborhood and you'll
19 see houses with solar.

20 They have a myriad of efficiency
21 programs to tap into. Here, solar panels are made
22 unattainable for many and families are left paying
23 upsized electric bills as a result of leaky homes
24 and inefficient appliances, all of the need for
25 increased number of cooling continues to become an

1 imperative.

2 Other states in the region that have
3 joined RGGI have seen a decrease in carbon and other
4 air pollution while also seeing a greater rate of
5 economic growth and reduction of electricity prices
6 in the national average.

7 By moving the burden of paying for
8 carbon pollution from families to those emitting the
9 pollution, we can realize a win-win scenario,
10 reducing climate and pollution impacts while
11 creating renewable energy and efficiency jobs.

12 Joining RGGI is the sensible approach
13 and I applaud Governor Wolf and the DEP for taking
14 this step.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Rachel.

17 Speaker Number 28 is Tom DePonty.

18 MR. DEPONTY: Good evening. Thank you
19 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Tom
20 DePonty, T-O-M D-E capital P-O-N-T-Y. And I'm here
21 representing Framatome as the director of government
22 affairs.

23 Framatome is a nuclear energy company
24 focused on servicing and fueling today's US and
25 Canadian nuclear fleet. We have operations here in

1 Cranberry Township and a proud history of supplying
2 the nuclear fleet in Pennsylvania.

3 Framatome supports the Department of
4 Environmental Protection's proposal to join the
5 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, as it will
6 better recognize the role of Pennsylvania's nuclear
7 power plants as part of a portfolio of technologies
8 that can meet the Commonwealth's energy needs.

9 By promptly joining RGGI by 2022, this
10 will allow a long-term planning, preserve the vital
11 nuclear capacity in Pennsylvania and maintain a
12 tremendous economic benefit nuclear power delivers
13 to the Commonwealth.

14 As a supplier, Pennsylvania is very
15 important to Framatome. Over the course of our
16 company's history, we have been a reliable partner
17 for the state's nuclear fleet, with a long proven
18 history of performance.

19 Since 1983, Framatome has supplied
20 every fuel reload to the Susquehanna Nuclear Plant
21 in Berwick, Pennsylvania, which to date is more than
22 10,500 fuel assemblies.

23 This evening, I wanted to take a few
24 minutes to talk to you about an area Framatome
25 specializes in and what that work means for local

1 communities. Framatome provides on-site services
2 for nuclear plant operations, including reactor
3 maintenance and modernizations, component repair and
4 replacement, and refueling. We design and
5 manufacture fuel assemblies for the existing and
6 next generation of nuclear reactors. In other
7 words, we specialize in outage work at nuclear
8 plants.

9 Support for these plants is an
10 investment in people and skill sets. Many of the
11 outage workers come from local communities and union
12 halls. As much as possible, these workers have
13 specific experience working in plants like Beaver
14 Valley or Susquehanna in order to achieve high
15 levels of performance, quality, and safety. During
16 an outage, Framatome uses a mix of our highly
17 trained employees with local workers. Our employees
18 rent hotel rooms, eat at local restaurants, and make
19 other purchases, thereby contributing to the local
20 and state tax bases. In addition, we use local
21 machine shops to purchase some parts and supplies in
22 support of our work. And we do this every 18 to 24
23 months.

24 I'm proud to say that every dollar
25 spent by our employees and contractors in

1 restaurants, hotels, and local businesses supports
2 schools, police and fire departments, and regional
3 producers in Pennsylvania.

4 Unfortunately, when plants shut down
5 early, the economic impact goes away as well. As a
6 supplier, we have seen this firsthand throughout the
7 US the past few years and up close as the original
8 equipment manufacturer for the Three Mile Island
9 Generating Station.

10 This is why Framatome supports the
11 proposal to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas
12 Initiative and fully recognizes the benefits
13 provided by Pennsylvania's carbon free nuclear power
14 plants.

15 I appreciate and thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak with you this evening and wish
17 you good luck in the rulemaking.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Tom.

19 Speaker Number 29 is not going to be
20 here this evening. So Speaker 30, Sharon Furlong,
21 are you ready?

22 MS. FURLONG: Yes. Can you hear me?

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Sharon.

24 Please go ahead.

25 MS. FURLONG: Thank you very much.

1 My name is Sharon Furlong, S-H-A-R-O-N
2 F-U-R-L-O-N-G. I live in Feasterville, PA, which is
3 in Bucks County. I am spokesperson for Bucks
4 Environmental Action, an environmental watchdog of
5 citizens and group leaders interested in trying to
6 clean up our state, our region, and our planet. And
7 before I get into my notes, I wanted to say how
8 amazed and wondrous it has been to hear
9 representatives from all sectors of society,
10 industrial, academic, private, and environmental, to
11 come in together as a harmonious voice. It is just
12 amazing and very rare. Thank you.

13 The proposal to become one of the
14 participants in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
15 Initiative is a fine and forward-looking proposal
16 indeed. We live in a state that has the dubious
17 distinction of being the third or fourth largest
18 producer of carbon-based pollution. We also
19 contribute one percent of the world's methane
20 pollution. Therefore, we see this proposal as a
21 step in the right direction to change those
22 unfortunate facts.

23 But these pollution facts are not dry
24 academic types of facts. No. Being an emitter of
25 pollution in these proportions means these facts are

1 deadly, because public health gets trounced. More
2 asthma, more respiratory distress disorders, more
3 hospital trips. Were we to join this initiative and
4 it was to work in the same way that it has worked in
5 ten other states, then we might have more than
6 180,000,000 tons of pollution, and that is
7 conservative, removed in less than nine years.

8 In a DEP analysis, such a reduction
9 could produce \$6.3 billion in healthcare savings
10 alone because there would probably be approximately
11 45,000 fewer asthma attacks with approximately
12 30,000 fewer hospital visits. And that is just one
13 aspect of public health affected by pollution and
14 climate change. There are other aspects that are
15 directly related to rising temperatures and
16 increased storm activity of climate disruption. And
17 these include exploding rates of infection from
18 tick-borne diseases and greater numbers of people
19 suffering from heat-related conditions that can lead
20 to death.

21 In addition, improved cardiovascular
22 health seems to go along with reductions in
23 pollution levels. And that is a fine incentive
24 indeed, all by itself, to join RGGI.

25 But maybe there needs to be more

1 incentives laid out. Okay. How about \$3 billion
2 raised where RGGI has been already established,
3 money that could be used to fund research, mitigate
4 health problems, quicken energy transition, and
5 create training and support programs for workers in
6 the declining fossil fuel industries or being able
7 to give these same training programs to others who
8 have not had the opportunity to enter programs
9 because of educational lax, institutional racism,
10 and deep poverty. And how does approximately 27,000
11 new decent paying Pennsylvania jobs sound? And
12 that, too, is a conservative estimate, on top of the
13 more than 85,000 already created from the solar
14 industry alone or the potential to add \$1.9 billion
15 to the Pennsylvania economy.

16 Isn't all of this attractive and
17 exciting?

18 But there is even more to lay at your
19 feet. Two recent polls show that close to 80
20 percent of the residents of Pennsylvania support
21 placing a limit on carbon pollution from power
22 plants and indicate they will support the lawmakers
23 who take action on climate change initiatives.
24 Many in the business community, as we have seen
25 tonight, say likewise.

1 Already, our heat days have increased
2 dramatically. And this affects all people, all
3 farmers, all workers, whose jobs are in the out of
4 doors. Our trees, our plants, our non-human beings,
5 even our soils are being damaged. We cannot afford
6 to let this climate crisis go unchallenged as we
7 have been for way too many years. We must take
8 significant action to try to prevent worse damages
9 from accelerating destructive changes.

10 Joining RGGI seems like an obvious way
11 to begin this battle, which truly is the battle for
12 all of our lives.

13 Thank you very much. I cede the rest
14 of my time.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Sharon.

16 Our next speaker, Number 31, is Sandra
17 Moore.

18 MS. MOORE: Hi. My name is Sandra
19 Moore, S-A-N-D-R-A, capital M-O-O-R-E. And I live
20 in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania.

21 I have been an environmentalist all
22 my life. I'm 67 years old. I grow a natural
23 garden, probably the only one in my neighborhood. I
24 raise monarch butterflies. I am very involved with
25 kids in the inner city, teaching them clay and art.

1 And I have noticed over the --- recently,
2 especially, it seems like the air quality in my area
3 is so bad, and I live in the North Hills. And it's
4 coming from the south from the Clairton Coke Works.

5 And it's just --- I can't even imagine that if you
6 lived there, how bad that would be. For me, and I
7 don't go outside during those times.

8 So I'm asking that not just electric
9 generated institutions be part of this, but also
10 steel mills, oil-producing, natural gas producing
11 facilities also join the initiative. I do not think
12 we have any time to waste. We need to do this now.
13 We're already too late, about 20, 30 years too late.
14 And the time really is disappearing. We will lose
15 if we don't make changes now. I am very hopeful,
16 having listened to everyone today. And I appreciate
17 the time.

18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Sandra.

20 Our next speaker, Number 32, is Peter
21 Furcht.

22 MR. FURCHT: Good evening. My name is
23 Peter Furcht, F like in Frank, U-R-C-H-T, as in Tom.
24 Philadelphia. And I'm a private citizen.

25 I support Governor Wolf's move to join

1 RGGI to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Joining
2 RGGI is a first step in changing the economic model
3 that has allowed industry the free unlimited dumping
4 of greenhouses gasses. Change is disruptive.
5 Changing to a low or no-carbon energy economy will
6 be disruptive. But change is necessary for economic
7 growth for improvements to our standard of living
8 for progress. When done right, we'll look back and
9 wonder why we didn't make these changes earlier.

10 History is full of disruptive changes
11 that ultimately transform our way of life in a very
12 positive way. Whalers lost their job after crude
13 oil was discovered here in Pennsylvania. The truth
14 is, of course, our modern economy could not have
15 been built on whale oil. The change to crude oil
16 was disruptive to the whaling industry, but
17 transformative to the world's economy.

18 Carriage makers and the steam engine
19 machinists lost their jobs after the automobile and
20 internal engine were invented. But millions work
21 now in the auto industry. And what would our life
22 and our economy be like if we were still riding
23 buggies and using steam engines?

24 Will some workers lose their job
25 because of RGGI? Unfortunately, yes. But studies

1 indicate that joining RGGI will produce a net
2 increase in 27,000 new jobs, a net increase to the
3 state GDP, and an increase to disposable personal
4 income. The study also projects many health
5 benefits. What's not to like about all this?

6 Well, if you're one of the workers
7 displaced by RGGI, 27,000 other people working
8 leaves you with little comfort. Some of the
9 millions of dollars of additional revenues brought
10 into the state through RGGI must be used to help
11 negatively impacted communities and individuals.

12 Funds for living, funds for training
13 for new jobs must be provided. We must all lobby
14 our representatives to be sure that this happens.

15 And history continues to behave as if
16 the earth has unlimited capacity to swallow up
17 without consequence, whatever waste we dump into
18 her. Climate change proves this to be false.
19 Change is required.

20 A capitalist-driven industry has shown
21 that it will not voluntarily reduce waste. I
22 understand that. Reducing waste adds costs and
23 makes businesses less competitive. As such,
24 protection of the earth and capitalism are
25 diametrically opposed. Capitalism and industry want

1 to drive out costs, protecting the Earth from waste
2 adds costs.

3 Again, though, if we flip back through
4 history, we see it is full of mandated changes to
5 industrial waste management. These changes were met
6 with dire warnings and industrial demise. Most
7 mandates, though, drove innovation rather than
8 demise.

9 Our water and air are somewhat clean
10 today only because government agencies told
11 industries that they cannot dump unlimited
12 quantities of certain waste. This costs industry
13 money. And some of that cost is passed down to the
14 consumers. Or they ask, are we all healthier and
15 living a better quality of life, enjoying the
16 outdoors because we are not tracing through filth,
17 breathing noxious air and drink poison water? I
18 believe so. Yes. It is worth the cost.

19 Dumping should not and, in many cases,
20 is not free. We all have to pay to have our trash
21 and waste collected. Why should energy industry be
22 allowed to dump their CO2 waste into our air for
23 free? RGGI is about free versus caustic CO2
24 dumping. If dumping CO2 is no longer free, energy
25 industries will have a financial incentive to stop

1 dumping unlimited quantities.

2 Energy industries will figure out best
3 ways to reduce carbon and/or offset their carbon
4 output and thus lower their carbon dioxide dumping
5 costs. This means innovation, efficiency gains, and
6 more. Some cost is added, but it is a cost the
7 energy industry can control and chose how to
8 mitigate. RGGI does not mean government involvement
9 in how energy companies run their business. There
10 are just some new market forces to address. A
11 market will cost --- a market cost will now exist
12 for discharging CO2 waste, just like a market cost
13 exists for disposal of our household waste.

14 When our cost of waste removal rises,
15 no doubt we figure out ways to be lest wasteful and
16 potentially even save more money than the increased
17 disposal cost. Industry will do the same.

18 It is simple. The time to act is now.
19 No excuses. RGGI is a proven market driven approach
20 to spur innovation while reducing CO2 emissions.
21 Please join.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Peter.

24 Speaker Number 33 is Kevin Long.

25 MR. LONG: Thank you. My name is

1 Kevin Long, K-E-V-I-N L-O-N-G. I am a resident of
2 Marysville. It's a privilege to be with you this
3 evening.

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

13 By contrast, the natural gas industry
14 is profiting from a resource that belongs to all of
15 us. They are not paying to do so. The extraction
16 and consumption of their product brings harm to
17 others. To date, the costs of that damage has been
18 paid by all Pennsylvanians.

19 Pennsylvania has the highest rate of
20 combustion-related deaths in the country. That
21 should be a source of shame for us, not a statistic
22 we're looking to grow.

23 The creation of jobs does not warrant
24 this. Most businesses that provide jobs do not
25 resell what belongs to everyone. Most businesses

1 that provide jobs do not poison our water and air.
2 Most business owners who provide jobs expect other
3 business owners to succeed based on merit, not on
4 free rides. It's time we asked the same of the
5 fossil fuel industries through participation in
6 RGGI.

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

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

23 Finally as a person of faith, I
24 believe we are to be stewards of God's creation,
25 which is a gift we all share. Thus, we are called

1 to protect it and ensure it is not exploited in an
2 unjust (sic) manner.

3 The costs of climate change are borne
4 by the marginalized and by future generations. And
5 we should be working to reduce that impact.

6 We are to pursue the greater good, not
7 a short-sighted system that benefits the few at the
8 cost of the many. RGGI is a step towards the
9 greater good.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to
11 participate in this hearing.

12 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Kevin.

13 Speaker 34 is not going to be here
14 this evening. Speaker Number 35, Christopher
15 Seymour.

16 MR. SEYMOUR: Hello. Can you hear me?

17 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can,
18 Christopher. Please go ahead.

19 MR. SEYMOUR: All right. Thank you.

20 My name is Christopher Seymour,
21 C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R. The last name is spelled
22 S-E-Y-M-O-U-R.

23 Good evening and thank you for the
24 opportunity to testify to the citizens of
25 Pennsylvania. My name again is Christopher Seymour.

1 I reside in Baldwin Borough, which is in Allegheny
2 County, just south of Pittsburgh. Today I'm
3 speaking on behalf of myself, my wife, and our two
4 boys. One of my boys just turned eight years old
5 and my youngest is only four years old.

6 My family's home rests on a few acres
7 of land just south of Pittsburgh, where we tend our
8 fruit orchard, we enjoy beekeeping. We grow
9 vegetables and herbs and flowers in our garden. We
10 also recreate locally in our county parks and also
11 in the Laurel Highlands, where we fish for native
12 trout in the summer and cross-country ski in the
13 state parks come winter. These are fulfilling
14 outdoor activities for us and are part of our
15 Commonwealth's heritage. But I do believe they are
16 at risk due to man-made climate change caused by
17 greenhouse gas emissions.

18 Over my lifetime, I've witnessed the
19 effects of climate change and industrial pollution.
20 In nearby Clairton, less than 10 miles from my
21 house, the largest coke factor in North America,
22 fouls our region's air. When the wind blows gently
23 out of the southeast, the air outside my home has a
24 nasty odor. It stings our eyes and it scratches our
25 throats. This keeps us inside away from our beloved

1 outdoor activities.

2 Even more concerning to me is the
3 change in our region's long-term weather patterns
4 due to climate change. Last year, in 2019, and
5 through 2020, too, in the winter, there was only one
6 week of sufficient snowpack to support the cross
7 country skiing in the Laurel Highlands. Our winters
8 are noticeably different now, with less snowfall and
9 warmer temperatures.

10 Did you know that Pennsylvania's
11 downhill ski resorts are not expected to remain
12 economically viable past the year 2050? Did you
13 know that Seven Springs Resort, the biggest ski area
14 in the state, is the largest private employer in
15 Somerset County? Climate change is putting our
16 economy at risk, including in rural communities.
17 Warmer temperatures are no longer an anomaly. The
18 ten warmest years globally have all occurred since
19 1998. Highest temperatures are putting many of
20 native species at risk, including something I try to
21 catch on my fly rod, native brook trout.

22 I've witnessed my family's small
23 orchard become less productive due to more parasites
24 surviving the warmer winters. Bees, our tree and
25 plant pollinators, are stressed by more intense

1 summer heat and become susceptible to parasites like
2 varroa mites. This is leading to colony collapse,
3 threatening our food supply.

4 Violent storms, fueled by the energy
5 available in a warmer climate, are causing more
6 frequent agricultural loss and property damage.
7 Global warming is threatening our ecosystem on many
8 levels. I share the same opinion of most climate
9 scientists in that we are ten years away from
10 catastrophe if we do not act to control greenhouse
11 gas emissions now.

12 Pennsylvania currently accounts for 1
13 percent of all global carbon pollution. Our state
14 emitted more energy-related carbon pollution in 2015
15 than all but 23 nations in the world. We must take
16 bold action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions
17 and transition to renewable energy resources.

18 I strongly support a proven, market-
19 based approach that is the Regional Greenhouse Gas
20 Initiative, we know as RGGI. Since the program
21 began, RGGI has helped cut carbon pollution from
22 Northeastern power plants by 45 percent, even as the
23 regional economy grew by nearly 10 percent.

24 The RGGI auction proceeds can be
25 reinvested to help struggling Pennsylvania towns and

1 communities negatively impacted by years of
2 industrial pollution. A town like Clairton, PA.
3 These investments in renewable energy and energy
4 efficiency will create green collar jobs and further
5 reduce greenhouse gases emitted by our Commonwealth.

6 By investing in energy efficient
7 products and clean energy, we will also improve the
8 air we breathe by reducing harmful pollutants like
9 mercury, sulfur dioxide, and ozone. And maybe my
10 family will be able to breathe easier the next time
11 the wind blows out of the southeast.

12 It's time for Pennsylvania to join
13 RGGI and cut carbon pollution from our power sector.

14 We are not asking our state to be the canary. Our
15 neighboring states have shown joining RGGI creates
16 jobs, saves consumers money, and reduces pollution.
17 We owe it to my sons and the future generations to
18 protect our heritage, our health and our prosperity.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Christopher.

21 Number 36, up next, Henry Alexander.

22 MR. ALEXANDER: Good evening. My name
23 is Henry Alexander, H-E-N-R-Y A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R.
24 And I currently live in West Chester, Pennsylvania.
25 And I've lived in Pennsylvania virtually all of my

1 life.

2 I appreciate the opportunity to submit
3 this testimony in favor of the decision to join the
4 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I am a
5 professional engineer who worked in environmental
6 science and engineering from 1972 to 2016, when I
7 retired. I now work full time on climate issues
8 because of their importance to our children and our
9 grandchildren.

10 Many of those who have submitted
11 comments have discussed the need for the reduction
12 in greenhouse gases in order to avoid uncontrolled
13 climate change. I wholeheartedly agree with their
14 conclusions. We must reduce greenhouse gases to
15 prevent the devastation of unchecked climate change
16 and to reduce the health impacts of air pollution.

17 I would like to direct my remarks to
18 the concept of cap and trade. Rather than
19 prescribing how emitters must reduce emissions, the
20 cap and trade approach identifies what needs to be
21 done and leaves the choices of how to accomplish it
22 to the emitters themselves so that they can achieve
23 the reductions in the manner that is most economical
24 for them.

25 The beginning of the cap and trade

1 concept was in 1977 when the US EPA required that
2 the emissions of volatile organic compounds that
3 would be emitted from a proposed automobile plant in
4 New Stanton, Pennsylvania be offset by some source
5 of existing VOC organic compounds in the Pittsburgh
6 area because the area was in noncompliance for
7 ozone. This requirement lead the Pennsylvania
8 Department of Transportation to convert to a latex
9 substitute for cutback asphalt, which was used to
10 fuse two layers of bituminous paving together. This
11 saving --- this saved PennDOT money while allowing
12 jobs to be created by the installation of a new auto
13 assembly plant. This first application of the
14 concept not only saved money but also created jobs
15 and reduced air pollution.

16 Beginning in 1995, the air pollution
17 control community implemented a cap and trade
18 program to reduce the emissions of sulfur dioxide
19 that was steadily acidifying the soil of the
20 northeastern United State with sulfuric acid. This
21 acid was produced by the combination of sulfur
22 dioxide emissions and the moisture in the air. The
23 goal of this program, named the Acid Rain Program,
24 was to reduce the emissions of sulfur dioxide from
25 the 1980 baseline by 10,000,000 tons to a level of

1 16,000,000 tons.

2 It was estimated that the Acid Rain
3 Program would cost \$6.1 billion. After the program
4 had been operating for eight years, the actual cost
5 of the program was recalculated independently by the
6 Electric Power Research Institute and Resources for
7 the Future. Their conclusions were that the total
8 cost of implementation of the program returned \$1.1
9 billion and \$1.7 billion. It demonstrated that a
10 broad-based cap and trade program can be used to
11 achieve significant emission reductions at minimum
12 cost to the industry. It also showed that it is
13 possible to provide industry the flexibility they
14 need while maintaining an enforceable structure.

15 As we are increasingly realizing, the
16 continued uncontrolled emissions of manmade
17 greenhouse gases is not an option. What is an
18 option is to accomplish a reduction of these planet-
19 warming compounds as costly --- as cost-effectively
20 as possible. I therefore urge the Pennsylvania
21 Department of Protection to adopt the CO2 Budget
22 Trading Program Regulation and join the ten
23 adjoining states in this program.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Henry.

1 Number 37, Franklin Kury.

2 MR. KURY: Can you hear me?

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Franklin.

4 Please go ahead.

5 MR. KURY: My name is Franklin Kury,
6 F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N K-U-R-Y, and I'm a resident of
7 Hummelstown, Dauphin County. I am a retired state
8 legislator and lawyer. But I'm making this
9 testimony of my own volition. I am not here
10 representing anybody but myself.

11 Now, I have submitted my complete
12 testimony in advance in writing. And I ask that
13 that full testimony be put in the record. And
14 rather than read that text, I'm just going to
15 summarize, because a lot of what I want to say has
16 already been said.

17 But let me put it this way, very
18 bluntly and directly. RGGI is a positive step by
19 the State of Pennsylvania to really deal with the
20 great question of climate change, which is
21 threatening our state, our country, and our planet.

22 And to me, this is a --- a very simple, direct
23 thing. Because one of the main causes of climate
24 change, as you've heard, global warming, comes from
25 carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere by

1 power plants and other things. So I say adopting
2 RGGI is a good start to deal with that.

3 Now, there are two overriding factors
4 or forces which mandate that Pennsylvania join the
5 RGGI.

6 First, of course, is the impending
7 disaster we're facing as a nation and as a planet if
8 we don't stop climate change. It is the
9 overwhelming consensus of the scientific, the
10 environmental community, and others that the time
11 for action is now. We don't have any time to
12 waste. Just in the few months, we have had reports
13 in Time Magazine, the New York Times, the United
14 Nations, that if we don't act this year or next
15 year, we may be beyond the turning point of stopping
16 climate change and saving our planet. We have to
17 come to a net zero set of emissions by the year
18 2050, but you can't wait until then to do it, we've
19 got to start now. So our planet and our state and
20 our country require that.

21 Now, the other reason I think we need
22 to do this, as already been touched on by Brian
23 Dugas, who talked about Article 1, Section 27 of the
24 State Constitution. And I won't repeat that because
25 he's already said that. But the important thing

1 about that Amendment --- and I know something about
2 it because as a state legislator, I was the author
3 of that amendment and I'm very proud of that. The
4 main thing it points out is that in sentence three,
5 the State of Pennsylvania is made the trustee of our
6 public natural resources, which includes the air and
7 the atmosphere in future generations. And we have
8 that obligation to act on it now.

9 Now, Article 1, Section 27 of our
10 Constitution, as Brian Dugas pointed out, is
11 entitled Natural Resources and the Public Estate.
12 That was adopted by the voters of Pennsylvania on
13 May 18, 1971 by a four to one margin, 1,023,342 in
14 favor and only 259,579 against it.

15 Now, next year is the 50th anniversary
16 of the adoption of that amendment. And I, as the
17 author of that amendment while I was in the State
18 House of Representatives, I just feel there's no way
19 for the State of Pennsylvania to carry out its
20 obligations as a trustee of our environment than to
21 join RGGI and bring the carbon dioxide emissions by
22 power plants under better control and reduction.
23 That's a great goal and that can be done through the
24 adoption of RGGI.

25 So I therefore propose prompt adoption

1 of the regulation before you, which would make
2 Pennsylvania part of RGGI.

3 Thank you very much. And I ask that
4 my full remarks be submitted for the record. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Franklin.
7 Speaker Number 38, Maren Cooke.

8 MR. COOKE: Well, hello. My name is
9 Maren Cooke, and I live in Pittsburgh. I'm a
10 planetary scientist by training, now doing mostly
11 science and environmental education. I work with
12 several local and regional environmental
13 organizations and institutions and am a Climate
14 Reality Leader, but I'm speaking as a private
15 citizen.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to
17 speak. I'm here this evening to support
18 Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas
19 Initiative.

20 Climate change is the single most
21 serious problem facing humanity and the world. It
22 is an existential challenge. We are threatening the
23 quality of life and indeed the lives of our
24 children, their children, and future generations.

25 Will we go extinct? Probably not any

1 time soon. Humans are very clever and adaptable.
2 But a whole lot of human misery has already been
3 inflicted on people, on families, on communities by
4 storms, floods, droughts, and displacement. And the
5 impacts and costs are mounting.

6 Every organism depends on others in a
7 complex web of life. Not just the food chain, but
8 also interdependencies like water purification,
9 pollination, and other symbiotic relationships.
10 Humans are no exception. We also depend on
11 biodiversity. However, humanity has driven us well
12 down the road in the sixth mass extinction, where a
13 mass extinction is defined as the loss of 75 percent
14 of the species on the planet.

15 Climate change is not the sole cause,
16 of course, but it is intimately linked with many
17 others as well, like deforestation, habitat
18 destruction, and shifts in seasonal patterns. If a
19 bird is migrating by the length of day but its food
20 source operates on temperature, that bird is out of
21 luck.

22 We are currently dealing with another
23 huge challenge, a global pandemic. And it is
24 significant to note here that climate change will
25 bring more and more pandemics as time goes on. The

1 geographic ranges of many tropical diseases are
2 already expanding rapidly. As habitats degrade and
3 people become more desperate, animals are coming in
4 contact with people in new and different ways. And
5 thawing permafrost will likely release long-dormant
6 pathogenic microbes.

7 The good news is that when we solve
8 climate change, we'll also solve air quality, since
9 the vast majority of air pollution is associated
10 with fossil-fuel combustion. Close to nine million
11 people a year around the world die prematurely due
12 to air pollution. About 100,000 in this country.
13 And several thousand of those are Pennsylvanians.
14 And even non-fatal cases of asthma, COPD, heart
15 disease, dementia, and cancer are responsible for
16 greatly diminished quality of life in communities
17 downwind of polluting facilities. For the
18 financially-inclined, this means lower property
19 values, too.

20 In the big picture, humanity needs to
21 wind down our fossil energy economy very quickly.
22 We need to meet, no, exceed the Paris Climate goals
23 in order to stave off the worst of the devastation.
24 We need to act especially quickly on methane, which
25 is over eighty times as strong a greenhouse gas as

1 carbon dioxide on a timescale appropriate to its
2 short lifetime in the atmosphere. And methane is
3 now dominating Pennsylvania's carbon budget. We
4 need to make it a lot less profitable to continue to
5 extract.

6 Society pays while profits are
7 internalized. Putting a price on carbon is a great
8 way to use natural market forces to incentivize
9 energy efficiency, conservation, and renewables. At
10 the national level, the Energy Innovation and Carbon
11 Dividend Act can do that, but as a heavily carbon-
12 emitting state, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to
13 participate in the solutions, as well. At the state
14 level, RGGI is already showing great results in
15 other states. As others have noted before me,
16 Pennsylvania joining will mean less carbon, more
17 jobs, and better support for renewable energy
18 initiatives. Further, Pennsylvania can target funds
19 from RGGI to address disadvantaged communities,
20 where people are and will suffer the worst of
21 climate change.

22 Boom and bust cycles are inherent in
23 resource extraction, with temporary jobs moving
24 around from place to place and from state to state.
25 Selling fossil projects to Pennsylvanians based on

1 jobs is false advertising, when many of the jobs and
2 many others are temporary. We need to turn that
3 tide and start investing in renewable energy, which
4 will provide more jobs anyway, instead of more
5 fossil extraction and petrochemical madness.

6 Continued development of natural gas
7 is incompatible with a livable future. Pennsylvania
8 should certainly join RGGI. And Pennsylvanians will
9 reap benefits now and into the future. Our
10 participation is long overdue.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Maren.

13 Speaker Number 39 is Tom Gilbert.

14 MR. GILBERT: Good evening. My name
15 is Tom Gilbert, T-O-M G-I-L-B-E-R-T. And I am a
16 resident of Buckingham Township in Bucks County. I
17 am testifying as a citizen and as the father of two
18 teenage daughters who is scared about what kind of
19 future we are leaving to our children and
20 grandchildren if we don't address the climate crisis
21 with great urgency. I strongly support Pennsylvania
22 joining RGGI, a common-sense, market-based, proven
23 approach that has helped to reduce greenhouse
24 emissions by nearly half in participating states,
25 while generating almost \$3 billion in revenue for

1 clean energy and other purposes.

2 Given that Pennsylvania's electric
3 sector generates the fifth most emissions of any
4 state nationwide, we have an obligation to clean up
5 our own act. If we fail to act, we risk the health
6 and safety of our communities and enormous economic
7 consequences. We are already experiencing the
8 effects of climate change. And scientists warn that
9 this is only the beginning. For example, PennDOT
10 spent more than \$125 million in 2018 alone to repair
11 damage from floods and landslides. And power
12 outages from extreme storms hit a record high in
13 2019, all events made worse by climate change.

14 Expert analysis conducted for DEP
15 projects that participation in RGGI will reduce
16 emissions by 21 percent in Pennsylvania, while
17 generating hundreds of millions of dollars annually
18 for the state. And this can be done at very little
19 cost to ratepayers. Pennsylvania will continue to
20 have the lowest electricity rate among RGGI states,
21 and consumers will save from investments in energy
22 efficiency.

23 The benefits will be enormous,
24 including the addition of 20,000 jobs as other have
25 noted, and \$1.9 billion to the state's economy. And

1 some of those funds generated can be used to help
2 workers and communities affected by the transition
3 away from fossil fuels to renewable and other clean
4 sources of energy.

5 Studies have shown that investments in
6 renewable energy, such as wind and solar, create
7 twice as many jobs per dollar than similar
8 investments in fossil fuel projects such as gas
9 pipelines. According to E2, nearly 94,000
10 Pennsylvanians are already employed in clean energy
11 sectors such as renewables, storage, energy
12 efficiency and clean vehicles. Funds from RGGI can
13 help to expand job opportunities in these industries
14 of the future and spur a green recovery to the
15 pandemic.

16 The transition to clean energy will
17 reduce harmful emissions that cause significant
18 health impacts and make us more vulnerable to
19 COVID-19. Reduced pollution will produce \$6 billion
20 in health benefits through 2030. And approximately
21 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and 1,000 fewer cases of
22 childhood bronchitis.

23 In closing, it is past time for
24 Pennsylvania to do the right and the smart thing by
25 joining RGGI, and to embrace a healthier, safer, and

1 more prosperous clean energy future.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Tom. Our
4 next speaker is Taylor Lamborn. Is Taylor with us?

5 MR. JAGIELA: I do not see him on the
6 line.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay. We can check back
8 if Taylor shows up.

9 Speaker Number 41, Gabriel Hohag.

10 MR. HOHAG: Correct. Can you hear me?

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can. Please go
12 ahead.

13 MR. HOHAG: Excellent. My name is
14 Gabriel Hohag, that's G-A-B-R-I-E-L H-O-H-A-G. I
15 live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And I'm
16 testifying as a private citizen and as a registered
17 architect of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
18 First, let me express my gratitude for the
19 opportunity to submit testimony in this hearing.
20 I'm strongly in favor of Pennsylvania's
21 participation in RGGI. It is an important step,
22 working in conjunction with other sustainable
23 practice initiatives.

24 Climate change is one of the greatest
25 threats we face as a community, regardless of how

1 you measure the size of that community. I've
2 already seen stronger storms and flooding. And
3 we're becoming desensitized to these events, both by
4 the frequency and their intensity, but I've seen its
5 impact in the state of Colorado, where I grew up,
6 with devastating wildfires and disruptions to
7 ecological cycles when insects survive over winter
8 and heighten the risk of wildfire by uncontrolled
9 tree infections. And in the State of New York,
10 where I received a professional Bachelor of
11 Architecture degree from Cornell University, RGGI
12 participation has had a positive impact already.

13 Climate change is personal because my
14 kids grew up in a world we passed onto them. It's a
15 beautiful world we live in. And even a walk in the
16 woods with my young children makes plain why it's
17 worth our collective stewardship of biodiversity.

18 I'm not a climate scientist myself. I
19 rely on and trust in peer-reviewed scientific
20 research. But I can do my part when scientific
21 research measures and then projects temperature
22 increases in Pennsylvania, this directly impacts how
23 building systems are designed to comply with code-
24 required standards, and therefore can drive the
25 long-term energy consumption throughout the life of

1 buildings.

2 While I do not collect or interpret
3 the source data from scientific research, I
4 implement space designs regarding forms by such
5 findings. Therefore, addressing climate change is a
6 professional responsibility. As a registered
7 architect in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I
8 work with neighbors across the state to design and
9 renovate where we work and live, study and research,
10 and I have been somewhat resilient in sustaining
11 values through that process.

12 Building design and construction have
13 a fundamental relationship to energy generation,
14 use, and related emissions through the construction
15 lifecycle through the selection of materials, the
16 manufacturing and fabrication of elements, the
17 delivery of components to the project site, and the
18 energy use throughout the life of the building, and
19 to the disposal and recycling of materials past the
20 building's usable life; they all tie back to energy
21 consumption. Therefore, emissions matter.

22 However, proactive new designs on my
23 drawing table are almost impactful when working in
24 parallel with broader economic policies, government
25 regulations, and the engagement of communities all

1 focus towards the same goal. When I do my part, it
2 can only be good when others do their part.
3 Pennsylvania participating in RGGI is one step
4 towards doing our collective part.

5 Access to clean air was integrated
6 into building construction through certain codes and
7 protected through certain regulations, and guidance
8 has evolved over decades to continue to provide
9 access to this common good.

10 What happens when this common resource
11 is not protected at its source? Emissions impact
12 human communities and impact our interconnected
13 ecological systems.

14 When I read a book about forest
15 habitats to my daughter, what do I tell her when I
16 get to the page with pollution and emissions? Do I
17 tell her she has to wait until her first job? That
18 won't be for another decade. I can't wait.

19 What will I tell her if our community
20 delays proactive stewardship and handling of
21 greenhouse emissions and other related climate
22 change risks?

23 As a five-year-old this year, she
24 said, quote, I want to remember where the trees had
25 been and I want to plant a new tree, end quote. You

1 see, even she is setting goals. Now, let's set and
2 meet our goals for Pennsylvania.

3 Participating in RGGI is an important
4 first step. While on its own, it will not resolve
5 all climate change threats, I am voicing my strong
6 support in Pennsylvania's participation with this
7 initiative. And for the DEP to continue to
8 participate --- the additional comprehensive plans
9 which will unfold in the days and years ahead.

10 Thank you for allowing me to provide
11 feedback in this testimony and thank you for
12 allowing it to be provided virtually. This ends my
13 testimony.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Gabriel.

15 Our next speaker, Number 42, is
16 Constance Hester.

17 MS. HESTER: Hi. My name is Constance
18 Hester. That's C-O-N-S-T-A-N-C-E. Last name,
19 H-E-S-T-E-R. I live in Shaler Township in Allegheny
20 County. I also inherited another house in Rhode
21 Island.

22 In Rhode Island, my energy supplier is
23 National Grid. From them, I regularly receive help
24 and incentives to become more and more energy
25 efficient. One day, people actually knocked on my

1 door to offer a solar solution that pays for itself.
2 They actively seek out houses with south facing
3 roofs and non-obstructed roofs.

4 National Grid works to serve the
5 interests of the community, the environment, and our
6 future. Many times, I have said to my husband, I
7 wish Duquesne Light and PNG would be more like
8 National Grid.

9 As I was reviewing RGGI information
10 for tonight, suddenly a light bulb went on. I
11 learned Rhode Island has participated with RGGI
12 since its inception. That's why it's like night and
13 day between being a resident here and a resident in
14 Rhode Island when it comes to the energy suppliers.

15 If you go to the National Grid website
16 for Rhode Island, they have nine energy and cost
17 saving programs for residents. If we join RGGI,
18 residents here will be able to look forward to these
19 types of programs.

20 National Grid, one of them, the most
21 comprehensive one offered is free energy audits for
22 up to 4-unit houses. When they are doing the audit,
23 they also install minor energy efficient upgrades
24 while they're there. Programmable thermostats, LED
25 light bulbs, faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads,

1 advanced power strips.

2 And then based on your assessment, you
3 may be eligible for up to \$4,000 towards
4 installation of insulation and targeted air sealing.
5 Rebates for replacing appliances, heating, cooling
6 and water heating systems. And no interest loans
7 for energy upgrades up to \$25,000 over 84 months.
8 There is also more assistance for income eligible
9 residents.

10 Pennsylvanians deserve no less. We
11 need our energy suppliers to be proactively working
12 to help all of us become more energy efficient, to
13 make our houses healthier, more comfortable, and
14 more affordable, too. Pennsylvania really must join
15 RGGI to make progress in that direction.

16 Thank you for letting me give the
17 testimony.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Constance.

19 Speaker Number 43 is William Braham.
20 Is William with us?

21 MR. JAGIELA: I'm not seeing him at
22 the moment.

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

24 We'll check back then. We'll come
25 back to see if William joins with us. So Speaker

1 Number 44, Judith Inskip.

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

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Judith.

4 Please go ahead.

5 MS. INSKEEP: My name is Judith
6 Inskip. And I am a retired office worker resident
7 in Montgomery County.

8 News reports indicate that owing to
9 COVID-19, greenhouse gas emissions are down. That's
10 a good thing, but still falls short of what we need
11 to do to combat climate change and threats to
12 health. Pennsylvania needs to join RGGI. This plan
13 is market-based. This is not business friendly.
14 The states that belong to RGGI have experienced
15 declines in carbon emissions and have had economic
16 growth providing funds for good things like clean
17 energy transportation and enhancing forests and
18 urban forests.

19 Then there are the public health
20 benefits associated with air quality improvements.
21 These are very much needed. As an example, near the
22 Clairton Coke Plant, residents have experienced
23 deaths in their families from cancer, asthma, and
24 scleroderma, among other conditions.

25 The plant's emissions blow toward

1 Braddock, a small community with its own US Steel
2 facility. Cancer rates there are double the rest of
3 the county. A study has found that underprivileged
4 children in Clairton and other Allegheny County
5 communities near smokestacks are twice as likely as
6 other children in the region to have asthma.
7 Clairton's kids are three times more likely to have
8 asthma than kids nationwide. These things are what
9 we are doing to too many of our nation's children.

10 Of course, residents in the area have
11 long depended on the jobs that the plant and the
12 schools on the tax money that comes from US Steel.
13 But some are starting to wonder if the costs are too
14 high for Clairton. And it is known that investment
15 in clean energy provides jobs.

16 As Pennsylvania is the second largest
17 energy producer in the US, with the fifth highest
18 level of power sector emissions, there is an urgent
19 need to take positive action. We do not have to
20 continue jeopardizing the health of our families and
21 our planet. If we do not act, what will our
22 grandchildren and great grandchildren say of us?

23 Thank you.

24 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Judith.

25 Next speaker, Number 45, is Adam Kapp.

1 MR. KAPP: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Adam.

3 Please go ahead.

4 MR. KAPP: Great.

5 Hi. My name is Adam Kapp. I am a
6 private citizen. I live in West Chester,
7 Pennsylvania. I am a native Pennsylvanian. I was
8 born in Philadelphia. And although I left briefly,
9 I returned here. And I have seen, you know, over my
10 lifetime, as a --- I guess I can't call myself a
11 young adult anymore, but, you know, the changes that
12 other people with more scientific expertise and
13 background have already spoken to.

14 But, you know, from my point of view,
15 that's included. You know, the increased flooding
16 events, increased numbers of high temperature days,
17 and, in some cases, reduced air quality.

18 These are the same things that we see
19 here in Pennsylvania that affect us every day. And
20 I'm voicing support, strong support, for
21 Pennsylvania joining RGGI because, you know,
22 although climate is a global challenge, we certainly
23 have to do our part. And many other people have
24 spoken to, you know, both the size and role that
25 Pennsylvania's energy generation plays both

1 regionally, nationally, and even globally.

2 And in addition, so climate change is
3 real. It's here today. It's already affecting
4 average ordinary Pennsylvanians like me and my
5 family. You know, we also know that poor air
6 quality that results from burning fossil fuels leads
7 to things that others have mentioned. Premature
8 deaths, ER visits for asthma, restricted activity
9 days, lost work days, as well as health care costs.

10 For all of these reasons, I think it's
11 really important that we join RGGI along with, you
12 know, virtually all of our neighbors, New York, New
13 Jersey, Delaware, Maryland have already joined.

14 We've seen the effect that climate has
15 had on Pennsylvania as well as the health impacts.
16 And many others have also spoken to the benefits
17 that we would realize, including revenue generation.

18 From my perspective, I would love to
19 see revenue generated through RGGI be reinvested, as
20 a previous caller said, in the communities that have
21 been most adversely impacted by power generation
22 from fossil fuels. Someone mentioned Gray's Ferry.
23 But I'm sure that there are others.

24 You know, I think that that kind of
25 restorative approach is the --- what's needed. You

1 know, and I would also like to reinvest in
2 additional renewable programs. And I do think that,
3 you know, renewables rather than propping up a
4 nuclear industry with bailouts that still has no
5 viable sustainable long-term solution for waste
6 disposal and storage, you know, is where that money
7 should be spent.

8 That's my time. And I'll yield the
9 rest.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Adam.

11 I just want to let everyone know, it's
12 8:58. We're doing pretty well. Thank you for
13 hanging with us for three hours. We only have six
14 people left. So we're going to continue and we
15 should be done in a half hour at the most.

16 With that said, Number 46 is Kate
17 Fissell.

18 MS. FISSELL: Yes. Hi.

19 Can you hear me?

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Kate.

21 Please go ahead.

22 MS. FISSELL: Thanks. Hi.

23 My name is Kate Fissell, K-A-T-E
24 F-I-S-S-E-L-L. I'm testifying as a private citizen.
25 I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1 I am asking you today to enter
2 Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas
3 Initiative and impose a cap on CO2 emissions from
4 fossil fuel power plants.

5 RGGI is a proven pathway to combat the
6 climate crisis and improve Pennsylvania's dismal
7 health statistics. What makes RGGI compelling to me
8 is that it addresses multiple urgent problems and an
9 economically feasible framework. There is an
10 overarching moral imperative to halt global warming
11 caused by greenhouse gasses such as CO2.

12 Here in Western Pennsylvania, we are
13 seeing landslides, we are seeing people standing on
14 tables in restaurants before the pandemic, because
15 when they came in, everything was fine. But by
16 desert, torrential rains had put them in three feet
17 of water.

18 A friend of mine lost all the contents
19 of the first floor of her house, including her
20 extensive book collection in that South Hills flash
21 flood. We're losing roads in basements and we know
22 other communities are losing their homes and their
23 lives because of global warming caused by greenhouse
24 gases like CO2.

25 Experience from the last ten years of

1 RGGI shows that power plants absolutely can reduce
2 their CO2 emissions. Given the right incentives,
3 power plants in RGGI states dropped their emissions
4 by 45 percent since 2009.

5 RGGI is a market-based approach that
6 gives power plants flexibility in dealing with their
7 pollution. That is particularly important in these
8 polarized times, because I think market-based
9 approaches can be palatable across the political
10 spectrum.

11 The pollution emitted by power plants
12 is what any economist from the most conservative to
13 the most progressive recognizes as a market failure,
14 an externality.

15 You would not want to watch a Steelers
16 or Eagles game without any referees on the field.
17 You are our free-market referees. And you can use
18 your whistle and the powerful tools RGGI gives you
19 to make this game work for us.

20 Whoever said it was okay that my
21 county, Allegheny County, crosses the finish line in
22 the top two percent for cancer risk from air
23 pollution. Where is the yellow flag on Pennsylvania
24 scoring the third highest cancer incidence rate of
25 all US States?

1 When you limit CO2 --- mercury or
2 neurotoxin that can cause brain damage, and fine
3 particulate matter, including sulfur oxide and
4 nitrogen oxide implicated in multiple cancers. The
5 International Agency for Research on Cancer has
6 concluded that, quote, outdoor air pollution is not
7 only a major environmental risk to health in
8 general, it is the most important environmental
9 cancer killer, due to the large number of people
10 exposed, end quote. I personally know two
11 co-workers and two friends in the outdoor recreation
12 community who are battling blood cancers. I am
13 asking you to join RGGI to stop the pollution
14 causing these diseases.

15 Air quality is of particular concern
16 in environmental justice communities, so I am also
17 asking you to prioritize monitoring air pollution in
18 EJ communities, and to prioritize RGGI investments
19 in those communities.

20 I came to Pittsburgh over 20 years ago
21 because I had a job offer. I stayed because I liked
22 it. I don't have family in the area. And I often
23 ask myself if I'm crazy to stay in such a
24 dangerously polluted region.

25 Support my choice and the choices of

1 over 12 million Pennsylvania residents by taking
2 advantage of the opportunity RGGI offers to make
3 Pennsylvania a cleaner and safer home for all of us.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Kate.

6 Our next speaker, Number 47, is Fred
7 Stevens. Is Fred with us?

8 MR. JAGIELA: I do not see Fred on the
9 line.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

11 How about --- Speaker Number 48 is not
12 with us. Speaker number 49, Karen Wood.

13 MS. WOOD: Yes, I'm here. Can you
14 hear me?

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Karen.
16 Please go ahead.

17 MS. WOOD: Thank you.

18 My name is Karen Wood. That's
19 K-A-R-E-N W-O-O-D. I appreciate the opportunity to
20 provide my testimony.

21 I've been a resident of Pittsburgh and
22 the surrounding area for 20 years. I'm a CPA
23 currently in a senior finance position at a
24 non-profit in Pittsburgh. I live in Shaler Township
25 in Allegheny County and I am speaking as a private

1 citizen.

2 I have two grown children who were
3 raised and are still living in the Pittsburgh area.

4 I'm taking this opportunity to urge
5 the state to join the 11 other states in or
6 registered to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas
7 Initiative or RGGI. RGGI is a sensible and
8 effective way for states to lower their carbon
9 dioxide emissions while providing the funds needed
10 to increase energy efficiency and transition away
11 from fossil fuels. By joining RGGI and reducing our
12 power plant carbon dioxide emissions, we will also
13 reduce the particulate emissions that placed
14 Pennsylvania as one of only four states that do not
15 meet current federal standards for particulate
16 matter.

17 Minor revisions such as monitoring air
18 pollution levels in marginalized communities,
19 setting up a process for engagement with leaders
20 from those communities whose pollution levels failed
21 to improve, and prioritizing the investment funds
22 generated by the program for use in those
23 communities should be considered. But no major
24 revisions should be permitted to delay the process.
25 We are already embarrassingly late to the table.

1 The impacts of Pennsylvania's power
2 plant emissions do not stay within our state's
3 borders. As a contributor of one percent of global
4 carbon dioxide emissions, we have a big role to play
5 in helping to stem the increasing harm caused by
6 climate change. The carbon dioxide emissions of the
7 local coal fired Cheswick Generating Station here in
8 Allegheny County are part of the global problem that
9 led to the out-of-control wildfires in the west that
10 claimed the life of one of my friends this summer.
11 The Cheswick plant is also responsible for
12 particulate emissions that put the health of 1.2
13 million people here at risk.

14 When my older daughter was young, she
15 suffered from asthma. We were fortunate to be able
16 to live --- to choose to live some distance from the
17 worst of the air pollution in our county, but she
18 still contracted a rare case of interstitial
19 pneumonia when she was nine-years old. I've been
20 asleep this week at her hospital bedside quarantined
21 while doctors tested my young child for frightening
22 diseases that could have caused that type of
23 pneumonia, while she was burning up with a high
24 fever and struggling to breathe.

25 It is nearly impossible to directly

1 pinpoint air pollution as a cause of any particular
2 illness. We know that. But all of those tests came
3 back negative. And the doctors never could explain
4 how my young daughter had developed such a rare
5 illness. There are over 20,000 children like her
6 with asthma in Allegheny County at risk due to
7 particulate emissions today.

8 We know climate change is the problem.
9 It causes severe weather and catastrophic fires and
10 flooding across the world. And agricultural losses
11 flooding and expansion of diseases here in
12 Pennsylvania, according to the EPA's own research.
13 We know that fossil fuels are a limited resource,
14 but they're contributing to climate change and that
15 burning them causes particulate emissions that
16 frequently exceed recommended standards and cause
17 health problems here in our state.

18 We know that renewables are the energy
19 source of the future. Even fossil fuel giants such
20 as BP are starting to move away from fossil fuels
21 and investing in wind and solar power.

22 The choice in front of Pennsylvania at
23 this moment is whether to take advantage of a proven
24 program to generate investments in these needed
25 changes, or just keep doing what we've been doing,

1 allowing fossil fuel burning to continue unabated
2 while climate change impacts become ever more severe
3 and our air quality continues to damage the health
4 of our residents and discourage industries and
5 talent from locating here.

6 The great thing about RGGI is that it
7 is a win-win environmentally and economically. We
8 don't have to guess or debate about the impacts of
9 joining. As late comers to the party, we only need
10 to look at how the other states already in the RGGI
11 program have fared.

12 An independent study conducted by the
13 Analysis Group, a global economic consulting firm,
14 found that during the three years, 2015 to 2017, the
15 RGGI program added approximately \$1.4 billion in
16 economic value and led to over 14,500 new job years
17 for the participant states without adversely
18 affecting power system reliability. And the
19 investment of auction proceeds into energy
20 efficiency and renewable energy projects
21 successfully mitigated electricity cost impacts.

22 RGGI is an effective program with a
23 proven track record. It provides a win-win scenario
24 for reducing carbon emissions while adding jobs and
25 economic value. We simply cannot afford not to take

1 this step and move our state forward to a healthier
2 and more economically viable future.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Karen.

5 Our next speaker, Number 50, is Shawn
6 Steffee. Are you with us, Shawn?

7 MR. STEFFEE: Hello?

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Hello. Yes, please go
9 ahead Shawn.

10 MR. STEFFE: Okay.

11 Good evening. My name is Shawn
12 Steffee. I'm a boilermaker but I testify as a
13 lifelong resident of Indiana County. I sit at my
14 union hall in Pittsburgh to testify because I do not
15 have access to high speed Internet at my home in
16 rural Indiana County, like so many of my fellow
17 residents.

18 In 1987, I graduated from Williamsport
19 Community College with a welding degree and was
20 employed for 12 years at FMC in Homer City before
21 losing my job as they left our state, like so many
22 others in my county. Fisher Scientific, Star
23 Manufacturing, Gorrell Windows, Haliburton, Robert
24 Shaw, and more.

25 I then pursued a career in the

1 electricity generation industry that was left. I
2 was blessed to become an apprentice at Local 154 and
3 earn a great family-sustaining wage and the
4 right --- and be able to raise my family in my
5 hometown.

6 I witnessed and worked in these plants
7 as they invested billions of dollars building
8 scrubbers and SERS to meet environmental standards
9 and surpassing them. Then I witnessed the trickle
10 down jobs and the businesses grew to support these
11 plants and how important the tax base was to my
12 school district to exist.

13 I can walk through these plants and
14 these jobsites and show you men and women with the
15 same story. But now in the face of this pandemic,
16 Governor Wolf looks to shutter these plants that are
17 still working, providing you with reliable
18 electricity at a time when total economic
19 destruction is caused by COVID-19. This will be a
20 crushing blow to my school district, my community,
21 and my county. The ripple effect will be
22 devastating.

23 DEP is taking advantage of COVID-19
24 and the government lockdowns. This entire process
25 lacks transparency and the DEP is yet to reach out

1 to impacted plants, communities, and organized trade
2 unions. DEP is ignoring the regulatory review as
3 mandated for public hearings to be held within
4 impacted communities like mine.

5 This virtual hearing is an injustice
6 to my community. RGGI should not move forward until
7 this is possible. Look at House Bill 2025 for my
8 State Rep, Jim Struzzi. First passed in the House
9 and Senate with bipartisan support, only to be
10 vetoed by Governor Wolf.

11 Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, and
12 Philadelphia voted no in favor of Governor Wolf but
13 63 of our 67 counties voted yes and do not agree
14 with Governor Wolf to have their right to an
15 executive order to join RGGI. The last time I
16 looked on the map, we were the State of
17 Pennsylvania, not the State of Philadelphia. This
18 is not the will of the people of Pennsylvania.

19 If RGGI is such a great economic
20 benefit, why wouldn't West Virginia and Ohio and
21 Kentucky join? If coal is dead, why is West
22 Virginia and Ohio investing hundreds of millions of
23 dollars right now in their coal fleets at our
24 border. Where is their CO2 emissions going to go?
25 Just watch the nightly news weather. The coal and

1 gas plants are gone as soon as we join RGGI. They
2 cannot compete in the PJM with West Virginia/Ohio.

3 So where is all of this protected
4 revenue going to come from? Does RGGI have a
5 recycling plant for the millions of hazardous waste
6 solar panels and the disposal of windmill blades
7 that cannot be recycled? What are the wages and
8 benefits of these thousands of projected green new
9 jobs? I'd love to compare them.

10 I am tired of hearing clean, green,
11 renewable energy. Solar panels, batteries, and
12 windmills are more --- come from fossil fuels and
13 rare earth minerals and potent greenhouse gases to
14 even exist. They are conceived in energy intensive
15 industries. Leprechauns at the end of the rainbow
16 are not forging and manufacturing solar panels and
17 windmills with rainbow power. This is the reason
18 China is building hundreds of coal plants right now,
19 40 times the size of Pennsylvania's current coal
20 fleet. They produce 60 percent of the world's
21 windmills and solar panels and are growing.

22 How many boilermakers, pipefitters,
23 millwrights, sheet metal workers are going to be
24 able to build and run these solar and wind farms?
25 Zero.

1 Does RGGI have a model for the
2 deforestation of our millions of trees that will be
3 clear cut to implement solar and wind on hundreds of
4 thousands of acres to replace fossil fuel
5 generation?

6 How much erosion and sediment will go
7 into our streams? How much wildlife will be
8 displaced at the end? I have heard hatred --- I
9 have heard hours of hatred in testimony of my
10 industry and every person that works in it.

11 There would be no COVID-19 vaccine
12 without equipment from fossil fuels. There would be
13 no ventilators, MRI machines, PPE, IVs, syringes,
14 cell phones, the list goes on.

15 Unless somebody can come up with a new
16 highly educated metallurgical and plastic formula,
17 we need our fossil fuels.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Shawn.

20 Our next speaker, Number 51, is Nora
21 Nash.

22 MS. NASH: Good evening. Can you hear
23 me?

24 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Nora.

25 Please go ahead.

1 MS. NASH: Yes. I am Nora Nash of the
2 Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. I represent
3 my congregation and the Philadelphia Coalition for
4 Responsible Investment. We are a community of women
5 dedicated to environmental and racial justice. We
6 accept our moral responsibility to protect our
7 environment, speak to the human rights of
8 communities, even help in the overall common good of
9 society. As a resident of Delaware County, I
10 appreciate this opportunity to address the
11 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
12 regarding RGGI.

13 RGGI will not only help combat climate
14 change, but it puts a spotlight on economic growth
15 through partnerships and other significant
16 opportunities for cost-effective pollution abatement
17 by limiting carbon pollution and mixing it with
18 RGGI.

19 Does Pennsylvania need RGGI? My
20 answer is resounding yes. According to SERIES,
21 Pennsylvania is the nation's fourth largest emitter
22 of greenhouse gas emissions. And it must confront
23 the reality that in order to stay competitive and
24 attractive in the modern economy, it needs to
25 transition away from the reliance on high carbon

1 emitting energy sources.

2 Carbon pricing policies like RGGI can
3 help Pennsylvania achieve all of these goals with
4 net economic benefits, affording policies that
5 address this problem now can better prepare
6 Pennsylvania for a low-carbon future while
7 prioritizing retooling communities that have been
8 traditionally reliant on the fossil fuel economy.

9 Pennsylvania is at the tail end of the
10 very ambitious plan that is impacting climate
11 change. And our state has a moral imperative to
12 advance just and equitable climate change solutions
13 in light of the present dire scientific data. It
14 must become an active participant with RGGI in
15 reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing
16 serious health equity, racial, and environmental
17 justice issues.

18 Moreover, we are in the midst of the
19 worst pandemic in our history. And it is absolutely
20 critical that our elected officials take urgent
21 action to address this escalating crisis.

22 When one of us hurts, all of us hurt.
23 The people who suffer the most live in areas that
24 are directly subject to flooding and CO2 emissions
25 from power plants, as we recently noted, for those

1 persons who live along the Darby Creek and Grays
2 Ferry lowlands and flood plain.

3 Many companies and investors recognize
4 that that carbon pollution, which contributes to
5 climate change, poses significant risk to all
6 sectors of our economy. RGGI can be a hallmark
7 program that will benefit all stakeholders as
8 Pennsylvania's economy seeks to build back better
9 and provide a healthier environment for all its
10 citizens in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

11 Legislators would be well served to
12 act upon the wishes of the vast majority of
13 Pennsylvanians as substantiated by polling data who
14 want their leaders to act for climate change.

15 Thank you for considering my
16 testimony. In summary, Pennsylvania, please join
17 RGGI. We have no time to waste. And thank you all
18 for listening to all of us this evening.

19 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Nora. Our
20 last speaker for the evening, Number 52, is Karla
21 McNamara.

22 Is Karla on the line? Is she with us?

23 MR. JAGIELA: I do not see Karla on
24 the line.

25 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

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Just one last check then. How about Taylor, William, and Fred? Have they joined us at all?

MR. JAGIELA: Not from what I can see.

MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

Well, I want to thank everyone for your patience. It's been a long --- almost three-and-a-half hours. Thank you for your patience in taking the time to provide testimony today.

With no other commenters present, on behalf of the EQB, I hereby adjourn this hearing at 9:19 p.m.

* * * * *

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 9:19 P.M.

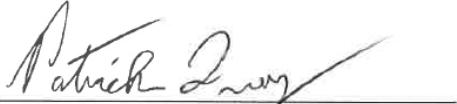
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 12/10/2020 and that I, Patrick Troy, read this transcript and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 14th day of January, 2021


Patrick Troy,

Court Reporter