



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: CO2 BUDGET TRADING PROGRAM

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BEFORE: LAURA GRIFFIN, Regulatory Coordinator
DAREK JAGIELA, Host
JENNIFER SWAN, Panelist
HAYLEY BOOK, Panelist

HEARING: Friday, December 11, 2020
1:00 p.m.

Reporter: Patrick Troy

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1 Witnesses: Art Leopold, Eileen Flanagan, Sean
2 O'Leary, David Gunyuzlu, John Dernbach, Andy Frank,
3 Steve Krug, Liz Fairchild, Alexandra Dobell, Daniel
4 Rossi-Keen, Catherine Holt, Nora Elmarzouky, Carol
5 Buskirk, Maria Korsnick, Carrie Barcomb, Meghan
6 Butler, Willie Reynolds, Arundhati Khanwalkar, Ron
7 Celentano, Kim Anderson, Karen Melton, Cathleen
8 Weinert, Will Bernstein, Grant Ervin, Nancy Harkins,
9 Daniel Wolk, Leslie Birch, Linda Westrick, Dara
10 Bortman, Lucyna de Barbaro, Elizabeth Bolton,
11 Charles Silio, Gabriela Snyder, Chuck Marshall,
12 Elise Yoder, Sonya Kripke, Rachel Ettenger, Roger
13 Day, Phoebe Reese, Stella Buccella, Lisa
14 Rosenberger, Maryanne Zarkreski, Aric Baker, Jade
15 Davis, Grant Gulibon, Marc Morano

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MS. GRIFFIN: I'd like to welcome you to the Environmental Quality Board's, or EQB, 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 Darek Jagiela, our Host, Haley Book, Senior Advisor on Energy and Climate, and Jennifer Swan, who most of you corresponded with to register for this hearing.

I officially call this hearing to order at 1:00 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 emissions from fossil-fuel fired power

1 plants located in Pennsylvania with an electricity
2 generation capacity equal to or greater than 25
3 megawatts.

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

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

24 This concludes the summary of the
25 rulemaking. If you would like to access a more

1 detailed explanation of regulatory amendments
2 included in this rulemaking, you can visit e-comment
3 on DEP's webpage and select regulations.

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

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

19 Please note that written and spoken
20 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
21 run out of time for your spoken testimony, we will
22 read the rest of your comments from your written
23 testimony.

24 As advised in registration
25 correspondence, please provide a copy of your

1 written testimony to regcomments@pa.gov. That's
2 R-E-G-C-O-M-M-E-N-T-S@pa.gov. Your e-mail must note
3 that you're submitting testimony for proposed
4 rulemaking CO2 Budget Trading Program, along with
5 the following information, your first and last name,
6 your mailing address, e-mail address, and if you are
7 commenting on behalf of an organization.

8 The testimony is not required to be
9 five minutes long. If others who provide testimony
10 before you are making similar statements to yours,
11 you are free to shorten or summarize your verbal
12 testimony at this time. And then still provide your
13 full testimony by e-mail. This will allow us to
14 hear from more commenters at this hearing.

15 Through the signup process,
16 prospective commenters were requested to designate
17 one witness to present testimony on behalf of an
18 organization.

19 Please state your name, address, the
20 city and state are sufficient, and affiliation, if
21 you have one, for the record prior to presenting
22 your testimony.

23 The EQB would appreciate your help by
24 spelling out your name and terms that may not be
25 generally familiar, so that the transcript can be as

1 accurate as possible.

2 Because the purpose of the hearing is
3 to receive comments on the proposal, EQB members and
4 DEP staff cannot address questions about the
5 proposed rulemaking during the duration of the
6 hearing.

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

16 There are a few different ways to
17 submit written comments, which is separate from
18 testimony. Comments may be submitted online through
19 e-comment, which is accessible from DEP's website,
20 by clicking the e-comment icon near the top of DEP's
21 homepage, www.dep.pa.gov - sorry, .gov (different
22 pronunciation) or comments may be submitted by
23 e-mail at regcomments@pa.gov.

24 All comments are entered into
25 e-comment and are accessible to the public. The

1 subject heading of the proposed rulemaking and a
2 return name and address must be included in each
3 e-mail.

4 Comments may also be sent through US
5 Postal Mail, addressed to the Environmental Quality
6 Board, P.O. Box 8477 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
7 17105-8477.

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

15 I would now like to call the first
16 commenter, Art Leopold. I saw Art on there. Do we
17 have him?

18 MR. JAGIELA: We do. And I've spoken
19 to him in chat.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

21 We'll give him another second and see
22 if he can get the speaker set up correctly.

23 Okay.

24 We'll try and come back to you next,
25 Art, after - we'll give you a few minutes to take

1 care of this.

2 Number 2, Eileen Flanagan. Is Eileen
3 with us?

4 MS. FLANAGAN: This is Eileen
5 Flanagan. Can you hear me now?

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Eileen.
7 Please go ahead and start.

8 MS. FLANAGAN: Great. Thank you.

9 My name is spelled Eileen,
10 E-I-L-E-E-N, Flanagan, F-L-A-N-A-G-A-N, and I live
11 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I'm speaking today
12 on behalf Earth Quaker Action Team as the former
13 board chair. A faith-based group founded in
14 southeastern Pennsylvania, EQAT's mission is to work
15 for a just and sustainable economy. For the past
16 five years, we've been doing this through our focus
17 on Power Local Green Jobs Campaign.

18 Unfortunately, a just and sustainable
19 economy is far from what we have right now. It
20 saddens me that my home state is one of the highest
21 emitters of carbon dioxide in the country. That
22 means that we are disproportionately contributing to
23 climate change around the world, but including in
24 our own communities. We are locking in a future of
25 increasing heat waves, flooding, drought, and even

1 tornadoes, which growing up in Montgomery County,
2 were something I only knew of from watching The
3 Wizard of Oz. It is clear that climate chaos will
4 affect all segments of our state—businesses,
5 farmers, schools. But its deadly effects will fall
6 especially hard on those who are already
7 economically vulnerable.

8 In addition to the dangers posed by
9 climate change, Pennsylvania's reliance on fossil
10 fuels has caused extreme pollution. I remember the
11 first time I brought my daughter to the emergency
12 room with asthma at age five. When I asked what
13 caused it, the Children's Hospital nurse said it was
14 likely from pollution. And yet I know that my
15 Northwest Philadelphia neighborhood is not the worst
16 affected. PA has one of the largest racial exposure
17 gaps in the country, the result of fossil fuel
18 facilities being disproportionately located in Black
19 and Brown communities. This has a plethora of
20 unequal health impacts, most recently, increasing
21 vulnerability to COVID-19.

22 It is long past time that Pennsylvania
23 transitions off of fossil fuels. The Regional
24 Greenhouse Gas Initiative is an important step in
25 that direction.

1 I know that critics of RGGI cite
2 concern for the fossil fuel industry and especially
3 the workers. Speaking from my own family
4 experience, I know that economic and technological
5 changes do fall hard on workers. And it's important
6 that we support them in transitioning to new
7 industries. Both of my great-grandfathers were coal
8 miners in the anthracite region, though those jobs
9 were mostly gone by the time my father returned from
10 World War II. He had to leave Pottsville and found
11 work on a Sun Oil tanker before he eventually
12 settled in Montgomery County with my mother.

13 Her father had been a blacksmith,
14 shoeing horses out of his Philadelphia garage.
15 Although he only had a fourth-grade education, when
16 he saw the horseless carriage, he understood what
17 that would mean for his business. So while training
18 his sons in his own trade, he also made sure they
19 learned auto mechanic skills that helped them
20 through the Depression. That kind of foresight is
21 needed now, to prepare Pennsylvanians for the jobs
22 of the future.

23 One of the strengths of RGGI is that
24 it will both limit the dangerous emissions and
25 provide revenue to help us with the energy

1 transition that is inevitable, but still coming too
2 slowly. Pennsylvania is now second to last for solar
3 capacity on the east coast, which means we have
4 tremendous potential for growth. RGGI is predicted
5 to create more than 27,000 jobs in Pennsylvania
6 through renewable energy and energy efficiency.

7 In Philadelphia, the poorest big city
8 in the country, our communities desperately need
9 such family-sustaining jobs, as well as clean air to
10 breathe. Earth Quaker Action Team sincerely hopes
11 that the hundreds of millions of dollars that will
12 be generated by RGGI will be used to address both
13 emissions and inequality, especially racial
14 inequality, which has caused so much needless
15 suffering.

16 With RGGI projected to add \$1.9
17 billion to the state's economy by 2030, Pennsylvania
18 will have the opportunity to help our entire state,
19 while prioritizing those who need new opportunities
20 the most.

21 In closing we at EQAT encourage you to
22 affirm RGGI and make modifications to the rulemaking
23 to incorporate inclusion and equity and
24 environmental justice principles. Thank you very
25 much for your attention.

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Eileen.
2 Our next speaker, number 3, is Sean
3 O'Leary.

4 MR. O'LEARY: Hi. Can you hear me?

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Sean.
6 Please go ahead.

7 MR. O'LEARY: All right.

8 My name is Sean O'Leary. It's S-E-A-N
9 and the last name is O, apostrophe, L-E-A-R-Y. And
10 I'm with the Ohio River Valley Institute based in
11 Johnstown. I should explain that the Ohio River
12 Valley Institute is a think tank that was founded
13 earlier this year to explore and develop valuable
14 and sustainable economic development strategies for
15 greater Appalachia, including the states of
16 Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

17 After examining the conditions under
18 which Pennsylvania would join RGGI, assessing the
19 effects RGGI has had to date in member states, and
20 reviewing the Department of Environmental Protection
21 study of the likely economic impacts, we have
22 concluded that RGGI membership will result in three
23 very beneficial outcomes in Pennsylvania.

24 First, greenhouse gas emissions will
25 be significantly reduced as well as other forms of

1 pollution that harm Pennsylvanians' health and drive
2 up healthcare costs and absenteeism.

3 Second, utility bills will be reduced
4 as less expensive renewable energy resources become
5 more prevalent and gains in energy efficiency more
6 than offset the small upward pressure that would be
7 placed on rates.

8 Third, jobs and commerce will
9 increase, particularly in rural counties and
10 non-metropolitan areas whose economies have
11 struggled most in recent years. The third of these,
12 increases in jobs and commerce in towns and rural
13 counties, is one of the most frequently overlooked
14 and yet one of the most significant benefits
15 associated with policy measures that, like RGGI,
16 effectively take money that would otherwise be used
17 to pay utility bills and, instead, invest it in
18 energy efficiency and distributed generation.

19 This redirection of funds generates
20 more jobs and commerce in local communities for
21 three reasons. First, utilities are not very labor-
22 intensive. Only about a quarter of every dollar we
23 pay for electricity ends up going to jobs and wages.
24 But with energy efficiency and distributed
25 generation, things like lighting and heating

1 upgrades, insulation, and home solar, between forty
2 and sixty cents of every dollar we spend goes to
3 hiring and paying workers.

4 Second, whereas the money spent on
5 utility bills leaves the economies of most towns and
6 rural communities, most of the money spent on energy
7 efficiency and distributed generation stays local.
8 The HVAC contractors, remodelers, door and window
9 companies, insulators, and solar installers who do
10 energy efficiency upgrades and distributed
11 generation are usually local merchants who hire
12 local people.

13 Finally, the jobs provided by these
14 local contractors and merchants arise up and down
15 the skills ladder, from entry level positions
16 requiring few skills to highly compensated positions
17 that require specialized training and education.

18 And the benefits don't end when energy
19 efficiency and distributed generation upgrades are
20 completed. The subsequent utility bill and energy
21 savings continue for decades providing customers
22 with more disposable income, most of which they will
23 spend locally.

24 Usually when we look at economic
25 impact studies, we just see numbers. But for you as

1 policymakers, the character of the jobs being
2 created and where they occur are also important
3 considerations. So as you make the right choice for
4 the planet and for the health of Pennsylvanians,
5 please also consider that RGGI can be a vehicle for
6 shared prosperity and economic development in our
7 communities that need it most.

8 That's why we at the Ohio River Valley
9 Institute, in addition to supporting Pennsylvania's
10 membership in RGGI, hope that two principles will
11 help guide how RGGI revenues are invested.

12 First, assistance should be provided
13 to help workers and communities whose incomes and
14 opportunities may be negatively impacted by the
15 transition to clean energy. But second, the
16 remaining funds should be heavily invested in energy
17 efficiency and distributed generation programs that
18 are designed to maximize the benefits I've talked
19 about.

20 If you are interested in learning more
21 about our analysis of the impacts that RGGI
22 membership will have, please take a look at a
23 published guide that can be found at our website,
24 ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org. And please feel free
25 to contact me directly. Thank you very much.

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Shawn.
2 Speaker number four is David Gunyuzlu.
3 Is David with us?
4 MR. GUNYUZLU: Can you hear me now?
5 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, David.
6 Please go ahead.
7 MR. GUNYUZLU: Okay. All right.
8 Thank you.
9 Yes. Hello. My name is David
10 Gunyuzlu. That's G-U-N-Y-U-Z-L-U. And I am a
11 resident of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.
12 I am speaking today as a private citizen in support
13 of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas
14 Initiative.
15 I believe that it is important for us
16 to take this action now to reduce our dependence on
17 fossil fuels and to prevent further climate change.
18 We know that continuing to burn fossil fuels is
19 having a negative effect on our planet.
20 Science has predicted what will happen
21 and we are already witnessing these effects. More
22 intense storms, worsening wild fires, sea level
23 rise, ocean acidification, and the loss of our coral
24 reefs, to name a few. Not to mention how the
25 polluting of our air, water, and soil, caused by the

1 extraction and burning of fossil fuels can
2 negatively effect our health, our tourism, and our
3 agriculture industries.

4 Fossil fuel companies have been
5 allowed to externalize their environmental costs for
6 too long. We cannot continue to damage our
7 environment and our health for short term financial
8 gains. It is not fair to future generations and to
9 the many other species that live on this planet.

10 Making changes can be uncomfortable,
11 but we have done it before. Banning the use of DDT,
12 removing lead from gasoline, and eliminating the use
13 of CFCs. These changes were made because they were
14 necessary to prevent environmental damage and to
15 prevent the negative health effects to ourselves and
16 to future generations. We are in a similar
17 situation today. We cannot afford to ignore climate
18 change and hope that the next generation fixes this
19 problem for us.

20 It is also clear that there is an
21 increased support for developing renewable energy
22 globally. In 2019, The Pew Research Center found
23 that 77 percent of adults in the US supported
24 pursuing renewable energy over increasing the
25 production of fossil fuels. International treaties,

1 such as the Paris Agreement, also indicate the
2 global trend.

3 Pennsylvania should take this
4 opportunity to invest in the renewable energy
5 industry rather than continuing to support an
6 industry that we know is unsustainable. It is not
7 only important for our environment and our health,
8 but also for the long term stability of our economy.
9 Pennsylvania should take this step now to start on a
10 path to reduce fossil fuel use and prevent further
11 climate change.

12 This is why I support Pennsylvania
13 joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, David.

16 I was informed that our next speaker,
17 Jeffrey Duncan, is not able to attend. That brings
18 us to speaker number six, John Dernbach.

19 MR. DERNBACH: Hi there. Can you hear
20 me?

21 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, John.
22 Please go ahead.

23 MR. DERNBACH: Well thank you so much.
24 My name is John Dernbach. That's
25 J-O-H-N, D as in David, E as in Elephant, R as in

1 Roger, N as in Nancy, and then Bach, like the
2 composer, B-A-C-H. And I am at Widener University
3 Commonwealth Law School, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
4 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. And I'm here today on
5 behalf of the school's Environmental Law and
6 Sustainability Center. I'm speaking today on behalf
7 of the Center.

8 The Center engages in research,
9 advocacy, and student programs on climate change,
10 constitutional environmental rights, and other
11 environmental issues.

12 The Center strongly supports the
13 proposed greenhouse gas regulation. The regulation
14 would not only provide - not only reduce
15 Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions, it would
16 provide substantial benefits to the state in the
17 form of auction revenues. I want to make four
18 points.

19 First, the proposed regulation is
20 consistent with, and required by, Article I, Section
21 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. The
22 Commonwealth has a constitutional duty to help
23 ensure a stable climate because of its trusteeship
24 responsibility for not only the atmosphere but also
25 the wide variety of public resources that depend on

1 a stable climate.

2 As the Supreme Court stated - the
3 Pennsylvania Supreme Court stated in 2017, the
4 meaning of Section 27 is to be supplemented and
5 supported by underlying principles of Pennsylvania
6 trust law in effect at the time of its enactment.
7 These include the general trust principles of
8 prudence, loyalty, and impartiality. All of these
9 support the proposed regulation.

10 The duty of prudence requires the
11 exercise of such skill and care as a person of
12 ordinary prudence would exercise in dealing with his
13 own property. Prudence requires good judgment and
14 caution, particularly when trust resources are being
15 threatened. Joining a well-established and
16 effective partnership like RGGI is a prudent
17 approach to protecting the public resources being
18 adversely affected by greenhouse gas emissions.
19 The duty of loyalty requires the Commonwealth to
20 manage public trust resources so to accomplish the
21 trust's purposes for the benefit of the trust's
22 beneficiaries.

23 Under Section 27, loyalty requires the
24 trustee to manage public natural resources for the
25 trust's beneficiaries, and not for others. The

1 Commonwealth would further this duty under the
2 proposed regulation by reducing the greenhouse gas
3 emissions that are threatening public natural
4 resources.

5 Finally, the duty of impartiality
6 requires the Commonwealth to manage public natural
7 resources so as to give all of the beneficiaries due
8 regard for their respective interests in light of
9 the purposes of the trust. The proposed regulation
10 benefits all of the beneficiaries, present and
11 future generations, by providing ongoing economic
12 benefits to the present generation as well as
13 environmental and public health benefits to present
14 and future generations.

15 My second point is that the proposed
16 regulation is just one step among many that the
17 Commonwealth must take to address climate change.
18 The Environmental Law and Sustainability Center is
19 one of the petitioners to the Environmental Quality
20 Board for a cap and trade regulation to reduce
21 greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

22 Professor Michael Gerrard and I have
23 edited a book, Legal Pathways to Deep
24 Decarbonization in the United States, that describes
25 more than a thousand legal tools that federal,

1 state, and local governments can employ to reduce
2 greenhouse gas emissions. There are hundreds of
3 tools at the state level alone. Among these tools
4 are those that foster economic development and job
5 creation in communities that are now most dependent
6 on the fossil fuel economy. The recently proposed
7 Marshall Plan for the rust belt deserves serious
8 consideration.

9 My third point is about how the
10 auction proceeds should be expended. On this point,
11 I want to draw your attention to the fine paper
12 written by a student at Widener Commonwealth,
13 Richard Marcil, entitled Allocations of Funds Under
14 Pennsylvania's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
15 Program. He will be testifying Monday about his
16 paper and I strongly commend it to you for your
17 consideration. It's intended as a resource for you.

18 Finally, I want to express my
19 appreciation to Governor Wolf, Secretary McDonnell,
20 and the staff at DEP for their hard work in the
21 development of this proposal. I know from prior
22 personal experience working on major rulemakings at
23 DEP how much work they are, and how many people are
24 needed for a successful outcome. Thank you.

25 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, John.

1 I'm being told that Art Leopold is
2 ready.

3 MR. LEOPOLD: Hi. This is Art
4 Leopold, 5341 Apple Grove Lane, Erie, PA 16506. My
5 remarks are as a private citizen.

6 Again, my name is Art Leopold. I live
7 in Erie, Erie County, PA. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to provide testimony on the Proposed
9 Rulemaking Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program aka
10 the RGGI. Although I belong to various local and
11 regional environmental groups, I speak today as an
12 environmental activist private citizen. I will let
13 others offering testimony expound on the scientific
14 merits involved, and I want to speak about the
15 people of PA.

16 The PA Office of Environmental Justice
17 is a watchdog for designated areas that encompass
18 low-income communities and communities of color.
19 One of the primary tasks that are their
20 responsibility is to minimize and, if possible,
21 avoid adverse impacts to these citizens. Also, they
22 must involve the public in gathering information
23 about businesses that may influence the well-being
24 of the residents in the areas and also publicly
25 disseminate promptly any notices that are pertinent

1 to the impacted communities. The Environmental
2 Justice Office, realizing the disproportionate harm
3 from historically intentional neglect that these
4 communities have suffered, must consider equitably
5 the economic benefits that are deserved by these
6 groups.

7 Hence, one of the advantages that may
8 accrue from joining the RGGI effort is the possible
9 distribution of resources to the member states that
10 will then be available for the benefit of our local
11 communities, such as the Environmental Justice areas
12 that are so deserving of the investment. I hope
13 that the Commonwealth will give favorable
14 consideration to the request to join the ten other
15 New England and Mid-Atlantic states in an initiative
16 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power
17 sector while generating opportunities for economic
18 growth for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Art.

21 Speaker number 7 is Andy Frank.

22 MR. FRANK: Hello. Good afternoon.

23 My name is Andy Frank and I am the founder and
24 president of Sealed, an energy efficiency company
25 that finances key home improves using the money that

1 homeowners currently waste on energy. Sealed
2 reaches homeowners through digital marketing and
3 strategic partnerships, we're coordinating projects
4 for TAD. We also work closely local contractor
5 partners who will install these energy efficiency
6 projects. And so by getting them more business, we
7 help them hire more people and pay their workers
8 more for good work.

9 I'm here to voice strong support for
10 RGGI on behalf of the business community and
11 encourage the DEP to swiftly implement a RGGI ruling
12 that prioritizes energy efficiency investments. My
13 company and similar ones make decisions on where to
14 invest based on how states invest in and treat
15 energy efficiency. Joining RGGI would be a strong
16 signal to my company and many others that
17 Pennsylvania is open for business when it comes to
18 energy efficiency and local clean energy job
19 creation.

20 So speaking of innovation and economic
21 growth, by allowing the market to determine the most
22 efficient means of reducing carbon emissions, cap
23 and invest programs like RGGI drive investment and
24 spur innovation in cleaner technologies. Energy
25 efficiency investments have also achieved greater

1 carbon reductions and additional economic benefits.
2 You're getting kind of a two-fer there.

3 Participating RGGI states that have
4 invested have - have participation in RGGI have
5 invested over half of their proceeds into energy
6 efficiency, generating over \$4 million in economic
7 benefits.

8 These benefits have taken the form of
9 new jobs, customer utility bill savings and public
10 private investment. So for example, SEAL typically
11 invests more of our own money than any utility or
12 public investments leading to better outcomes and
13 more jobs. But we need help, especially in
14 investments in workforce training and education, as
15 well as additional incentives to grow the market.
16 So investing in RGGI proceeds and energy efficiency
17 will create jobs. And the bottom line is that
18 energy efficiency is the biggest most reliable job
19 creator of all of the energy sectors.

20 Once Pennsylvania joins RGGI, energy
21 efficiency workers will be in increasing demand to
22 build, install, monitor, repair, and improve
23 equipment. These jobs offer higher than average
24 salary and cannot be outsourced. These are local
25 job creation. So RGGI auction proceeds can also

1 fund training centers that provide the necessary
2 coursework for new energy workers to succeed at
3 energy efficiency careers.

4 Pennsylvania can also develop career
5 pathways with vocational and community schools
6 across the schools across the state using RGGI
7 proceeds.

8 Over time this will help meet the
9 workforce development needs of an aging energy
10 workforce. In the current recession, it is also
11 important to mention that investing RGGI proceeds
12 into energy efficiency can make the energy landscape
13 more equitable. Support for low and middle income
14 customers is really critical right now. And so some
15 economic and structural inequities still prevent
16 residents and small businesses from participating in
17 state-offered energy efficiency programs.

18 RGGI money can be used to fill in the
19 gaps in existing low and modern income and small
20 business energy efficiency programs, so moving
21 various assets should be a big priority for RGGI
22 funding. When more people are able to participate
23 in energy efficiency programs, more energy is saved,
24 more emissions are curtailed, and the cost of energy
25 drops remarkably.

1 This is not an academic exercise for
2 my company. We are actively analyzing different
3 markets to invest in and how much to invest in each
4 market.

5 DEP voting to join RGGI and investing
6 the market proceeds into energy efficiency will
7 enable us to invest many millions of dollars in
8 energy efficiency projects that will ensure
9 Pennsylvania homeowners can be comfortable and
10 efficient and that local contractors can grow their
11 businesses and hire more workers that are paid a
12 fair and honest wage.

13 Thank you for your time today. Above
14 all, I encourage the DEP to move quickly to develop
15 a RGGI rule that prioritizes investment in energy
16 efficiency, which is best positioned to lower
17 customer bills, reduce emissions, create jobs, and
18 follow Pennsylvania's economic recovery. Thank you.

19 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Andy.

20 Our next speaker, number 8, is Steve
21 Krug.

22 MR. KRUG: Good afternoon. I'm Steve
23 Krug, an architect and engineer licensed in
24 Pennsylvania, practicing for over 40 years and I
25 live in West Chester, Pennsylvania. I've served in

1 many leadership positions and I'm here on behalf of
2 my own businesses, Krug Architects and CHP-
3 Funder.com. My career has involved thoughtfully
4 planning places and designing healthy, energy-
5 efficient buildings that are cost effective and
6 serve our beautiful Pennsylvania communities.

7 Because of my planning and energy
8 experience, I have served on many committees and was
9 appointed by Governor Corbett to the Pennsylvania
10 Climate Change Advisory Committee. I was
11 re-appointed by Governor Wolf and currently serve as
12 Chairman of the CCAC for the third time.

13 I support RGGI investment for the benefit of
14 Pennsylvania businesses, families, and communities.
15 I encourage DEP to implement a RGGI ruling that
16 helps create healthy, sustainable, and vibrant
17 Pennsylvania communities.

18 We are in an energy transition and
19 Pennsylvania has been lucky to benefit from an
20 abundance of natural gas. RGGI is a way to help
21 create jobs for the future. We have seen in the
22 past it takes a generation or more to retool the
23 work force. RGGI has been shown to be beneficial.
24 It is already a smart policy in ten other states.
25 Other RGGI states have invested more than 72 percent

1 of their proceeds into energy efficiency and on
2 alternative energy programs, generating over \$4
3 billion in economic benefits in the form of jobs,
4 consumer utility bill savings, and public-private
5 investment.

6 DEP has done analysis to show that
7 RGGI will lead to similar benefits for Pennsylvania,
8 conservatively adding \$2 billion to the State
9 economy from 2022 to 2030 and helping create 27,000
10 good-paying jobs. The DEP Climate Action Plan has
11 recommended that Pennsylvania look at a cap-and-
12 trade for the electric generation sector. The
13 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a market-based
14 approach, with quarterly auctions to get prices from
15 purchases of allowances.

16 The proposed RGGI regulations include
17 programs that support high performance buildings
18 that save money. For example, we design educational
19 and commercial buildings that allow students and
20 professionals to pay better attention with good
21 daylighting, a high-quality thermal package, and
22 controlled natural ventilation, while saving energy.
23 Good design allows people to perform their jobs more
24 productively, teach better and learn more.

25 Investing RGGI proceeds in energy

1 efficiency will create jobs. Auction proceeds can
2 fund training centers for workers and create
3 pathways with vocational and community schools.

4 Furthermore, we have been requested to
5 address three specific areas of the proposed
6 regulations.

7 First, ways to address the equity and
8 environmental justice. Investing RGGI proceeds in
9 energy efficiency can make the economic landscape
10 more equitable.

11 AIA's Blueprint for Better campaign
12 involves many people and is an example of what we
13 build is inclusive. Having young people involved in
14 emission reduction will also help most often
15 impacted people that are impacted by borderline air
16 quality, such as kids and at-risk seniors

17 Secondly, approaches to benefit the
18 just and equitable transition of workers. The energy
19 mix in Pennsylvania has changed and the forecast for
20 energy mix continues to change, albeit natural gas
21 is projected to remain stable.

22 In October, Bloomberg published the
23 New Energy Outlook 2020, which shows fossil fuels
24 will decline. The regulations should address the
25 energy sectors and communities affected by the long-

1 term energy transition. Data from the Pennsylvania
2 Labor and Industry, as well as Industry
3 Partnerships, can provide sources. For example, the
4 Environmental and Energy Study Institute, dedicated
5 efforts are necessary to support these communities
6 as they move away from single-industry economies
7 toward more diversified, sustainable economies.
8 Opportunities for a transitioning workforce include
9 clean energy, environmental restoration, natural
10 resources, broadband deployment, and
11 entrepreneurship.

12 Third, ways to appropriately address
13 the benefits of cogeneration. As I mentioned above,
14 Pennsylvania has a strong background in the
15 development of Combined Heat and Power systems and
16 equipment. Investing in new CHP technologies and
17 manufacturing are well advised. Thank you.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Steve.

19 Speaker number 9 today is Liz
20 Fairchild.

21 MS. FAIRCHILD: Hi, there. Can you
22 hear me?

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Liz.
24 Please go ahead.

25 MS. FAIRCHILD: Great. Good

1 afternoon. My name is Liz Fairchild, L-I-Z
2 F-A-I-R-C-H-I-L-D. And I'm the executive director
3 of Business Forward. We're an organization that
4 works with more than 100,000 business leaders across
5 the country, including more than 6,000 here in
6 Pennsylvania.

7 We've organized hundreds of briefings
8 on clean energy, climate change, and energy
9 security. And these briefings have included two
10 Secretaries of Energy, two EPA Administrators,
11 dozens of U.S. Senators, Congressmen and women, and
12 hundreds of other officials.

13 I'm here today to voice strong support
14 for RGGI on behalf of the local business leaders
15 with whom we work in Pennsylvania. Opponents of
16 RGGI argue it will cost the Commonwealth jobs in the
17 coal industry. But unfortunately, those jobs are
18 already being lost due to the inevitable market
19 shift from coal to gas and renewables. RGGI raises
20 revenue from that transition, which Pennsylvania can
21 then reinvest in building a clean energy economy for
22 the future.

23 Pennsylvania business leaders in our
24 network support RGGI because they are concerned
25 about severe weather distorting commodity prices,

1 disrupting supply chains, damaging plants and
2 equipment, and hurting consumer demand. They
3 understand that severe weather threatens the rail,
4 water, and highway infrastructure in the
5 Commonwealth.

6 And they also understand the impact on
7 Pennsylvania farms - reducing crop yields,
8 increasing water costs, and increasing frost and
9 drought risk. Furthermore, they see RGGI as an
10 opportunity to spur a long-lasting economic recovery
11 through innovation of clean technologies and
12 investment in energy efficiency.

13 As the second largest energy producer
14 in the nation, RGGI would raise significant revenue
15 for Pennsylvania. Analysis projects \$320 million in
16 2022 and \$2.4 billion by 2030. Those dollars would
17 be reinvested in clean air projects, energy
18 efficiency, good jobs, and consumer relief.

19 Participating RGGI states have
20 invested more than half their proceeds into energy
21 efficiency, generating more than \$4 billion in
22 economic benefits. These benefits have taken the
23 form of new jobs, customer utility bill savings, and
24 public-private investment. And they all work toward
25 the energy landscape more equitable, which should be

1 a priority in Pennsylvania.

2 Given the current recession, support
3 for low and middle-income customers is critical
4 right now. Investments of auction proceeds should
5 prioritize eliminating the economic and structural
6 barriers that prevent disadvantaged residents and
7 small businesses from accessing state-offered energy
8 efficiency programs. When more people are able to
9 participate, more energy is saved, more emissions
10 are curtailed, and the cost of energy drops for more
11 people.

12 Our business leaders in Pennsylvania
13 recognize that investing in energy efficiency is the
14 largest, most reliable job creator among all energy
15 sectors. By 2030, RGGI could create 27,000 jobs and
16 \$1.9 billion in gross state product. And these are
17 the jobs that will be the core of Pennsylvania's
18 energy economy in 10 years. Once Pennsylvania
19 officially joins RGGI, energy efficiency workers
20 will be in increasing demand to build, install,
21 monitor, repair, and improve equipment. These jobs
22 offer a higher-than-average salary and cannot be
23 outsourced.

24 RGGI proceeds can also fund training
25 centers that provide the necessary coursework for

1 new energy workers and develop career pathways with
2 vocational and community schools across
3 Pennsylvania. Over time, this will help meet the
4 workforce development needs of an aging energy
5 workforce.

6 RGGI has a strong track record. In
7 its first decade, participating states saw a 47
8 percent reduction in emissions, nearly twice the
9 rate of non-RGGI states. Over that same period, the
10 GDP of RGGI states grew by 47 percent while
11 electricity prices remained low. From 2008 to '17,
12 electricity prices in RGGI states fell by 5.7
13 percent, while prices increased by 8.6 percent
14 elsewhere.

15 Ultimately, business leaders in
16 Pennsylvania see RGGI as an opportunity to mitigate
17 severe weather risks, raise revenue from the energy
18 transition, lower energy costs for consumers and
19 small businesses, and spur economic growth by
20 investing in energy efficiency, innovation, and the
21 clean energy workforce.

22 Thank you so much for your time today.
23 Above all, I encourage the DEP to act quickly to
24 develop a RGGI rule that prioritizes investment in
25 energy efficiency, which is best positioned to lower

1 customer bills, reduce emissions, create jobs, and
2 power Pennsylvania's economic recovery. Thank you.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Liz.

4 Our next speaker, number 10, is
5 Alexandra Dobell.

6 MS. DOBELL: Hi. Can everybody hear
7 me?

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

10 MS. DOBELL: All right.

11 Alexandra Dobell is spelled
12 A-L-E-X-A-N-D-R-A D-O-B-E-L-L.

13 My name is Alexandra Colegado Dobell.
14 I'm from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I'm here as a
15 private citizen in strong support of joining RGGI.
16 My middle name, Colegado, is my mother's maiden name
17 as is custom in my Filipino culture. I'm here
18 because I've learned a lot about how RGGI states
19 have reduced their emissions. Today we finally have
20 an opportunity to finally push one of the biggest
21 polluters in our country into its role of
22 responsibility. And I am speaking specifically
23 about our state of Pennsylvania.

24 Not only is the U.S. one of the
25 biggest polluters globally, but if we remember that

1 China is a largely export-based economy with a huge
2 population, we may want to look at this as a per
3 capita issue. Then if we don't include those
4 countries in the Middle East which are producing
5 fossil fuels often for our consumption, I would
6 assert that we, as American citizens, are the most
7 responsible. And Pennsylvania, the fourth biggest
8 polluting state in our nation, is then also
9 significantly responsible for what is happening in
10 the world today.

11 And what is happening in the world
12 today? Well, the Philippines experienced six
13 typhoons in the last month. Several children died
14 and entire communities waited for help on their
15 roofs during flooding. Normally the Filipino people
16 rally around the Filipino spirit of resilience born
17 out of pride for dealing with similar things in the
18 past, but this year the message from organizations
19 on the ground was clear, do not glorify resilience.
20 Declare climate emergency now.

21 And why does this matter to the state
22 of Pennsylvania? Because as the postcolonial
23 philosopher, Edouard Glissant, argued in his praise
24 of Thinking Like an Archipelago, nothing is defined
25 in isolation. Everything is defined in its

1 relationship to other things. What happens in
2 Pennsylvania today determines what happens not only
3 in the Philippines, but every other country that is
4 facing the consequences of our actions. The
5 Philippines is ranked as the number 2 country
6 expected to face the worst of climate change. The
7 U.S. is not even in the top ten. And yet its
8 citizens are arguably the most responsible.

9 And so to only look only at the
10 effects of pollution on the citizens of
11 Pennsylvania, such as myself, would be a grave
12 mistake when considering the urgency and
13 responsibility for Pennsylvania to join any
14 initiative whose aim is to reduce its emissions.

15 As a member of the Philippine diaspora
16 and believer of the Anakbayan movement, I must
17 remind my American peers that what happens in
18 Pennsylvania, and more specifically, what is
19 happening here today at the DEP, is related to what
20 is happening in the Philippines.

21 This is personal for me. I have two
22 brothers Malcolm and Nickolaus Calacat Dobell, both
23 under the age of 5. I have two grandparents,
24 Soledad and Elsie Borines. I have 5 uncles, Earl,
25 J.R., Raphael, Lark, and Daniel Colegado. I have 5

1 cousins, Sophie, Adam, Leon, Isabel, and Israel,
2 most under the age of 10. And this is not even all
3 my loved ones currently living there. I am not
4 worried about their future, I am worried about their
5 present.

6 I have done my duties as a concerned
7 citizen. I have sorted my recycling. I have
8 composted. I have purchased locally. I have
9 lobbied respectfully. I am doing everything I can
10 do. I need my state of Pennsylvania to back me up
11 and do everything it can do.

12 As a Pennsylvania citizen and member
13 of the Filipino diaspora, I am here missing work on
14 unpaid time because Pennsylvania has failed to rise
15 up to its role as a leader in this movement. I
16 believe, just as I witnessed in the 2020 election,
17 that the importance of Pennsylvania is not to be
18 underestimated in its role for change globally.

19 I support RGGI because it will push
20 Pennsylvania to limit emissions and invest in clean
21 energy, something that is long past due. I would
22 like to thank Governor Tom Wolf for utilizing his
23 veto power in order to enable this conversation
24 today, may he recover quickly. And I would like to
25 thank the DEP for taking the time to listen to my

1 comment. That is all.

2 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Alexandra.

3 Speaker number 11 today is Daniel Rossi-Keen.

4 MR. ROSSI-KEEN: All right.

5 Are you able to hear me?

6 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, Daniel. Please go
7 ahead.

8 MR. ROSSI-KEEN: Thank you.

9 My name is Daniel Rossi-Keen, Daniel
10 Rossi, R-O-S-S-I, hyphen, Keen, K-E-E-N. I live in
11 Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. And I'm here representing
12 an organization called RiverWise.

13 I would like to begin by thanking all
14 who are present for the opportunity and privilege to
15 register my support of RGGI. I would also like to
16 apologize in advance for my somewhat slurred speech.
17 I am currently dealing with a bout of shingles that
18 has temporarily paralyzed half of my face. So, I
19 suppose you can count yourself lucky that this is
20 only an audio call.

21 I am speaking to you today on behalf
22 of an organization called RiverWise, where I serve
23 as Executive Director. RiverWise is a nonprofit
24 organization working to develop a regional identity
25 around the rivers of Beaver County, Pennsylvania in

1 the western part of the state. To accomplish this
2 work, we are currently partnered with roughly 100
3 different organizations working on more than 30
4 sustainable development projects in numerous
5 municipalities along and adjacent to the Ohio and
6 Beaver Rivers. These projects include things like
7 air quality monitoring, community parks, bike
8 trails, the creation of municipal energy
9 infrastructure, and much more.

10 Central to the work of RiverWise is
11 the creation of something called ecodistricts, which
12 we have now organized in Beaver Falls, Monaca, and
13 Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. An ecodistrict is an
14 organized team of stakeholders who seek to view the
15 development of their community holistically. In
16 Beaver County, our current ecodistrict work focuses
17 on enhancing six primary quality of life areas
18 including air, water, mobility, energy, food, and
19 equity.

20 I mention all of this context to give
21 you a bit of a sense of where I am coming from when
22 I tell you that I support the adoption of RGGI. I
23 am not naive enough to think that RGGI will
24 singlehandedly solve all the problems emerging from
25 climate change. I don't think that any intervention

1 - single intervention is likely to do that. Neither
2 do I think that RGGI will fully eliminate carbon
3 dioxide pollution.

4 But I do believe that if stewarded
5 wisely and spent strategically, the proceeds from
6 RGGI can help to support a holistic and audacious
7 transition to a more imaginative and sustainable
8 energy future for communities like the ones that I
9 serve in Beaver County.

10 As I say to anyone who will listen,
11 the central battle in the fight against climate
12 change is a battle for the imagination of our
13 residents and those who have been elected to serve
14 them. Unfortunately, advocates of a clean energy
15 future are often left talking hypothetically about
16 what might someday happen rather than concretely
17 being able to show what is actually possible in the
18 present.

19 As a leader in sustainable community
20 development in Beaver County, I need to be able to
21 stop talking in the abstract about the future and
22 begin demonstrating what that future looks like,
23 bringing it to life in the present. Of course,
24 doing so requires financial resources. And I
25 believe that if properly implemented, RGGI can

1 provide many of the resources required to move
2 toward a sustainable vision for our region.
3 Resources are required to demonstrate that an
4 alternative energy future is not only theoretically
5 possible, but that it is also economically viable
6 and beneficial for creating a diversified future
7 that can stave off yet another cycle of regional
8 boom and bust.

9 Resources are required to bring to
10 life RiverWise's vision for a municipal scale - for
11 municipal scale energy production, showing residents
12 of Beaver County how we can pump our water using
13 solar power, how we can power our municipal fleets
14 using cleaner energy sources, and how we can
15 solarize our bridges to offset municipal energy
16 costs. Resources are also required to demonstrate
17 how strategically utilized power purchase agreements
18 can create clean energy in ways that can help to
19 subsidize sustainable innovation in perpetuity, all
20 while creating clean energy at lower costs.

21 Resources are required so we can stop
22 talking hypothetically to our area youth about an
23 amorphous green energy workforce and instead
24 initiate programs, training, and opportunities for
25 green jobs that reinvigorate our education system,

1 grow our regional economy, and give young people
2 legitimate options for an energy-focused future.

3 The time for talking about things like
4 this in places like Beaver County is long past.
5 What we need is focused and ongoing funding to
6 create these realities in the present. The future
7 of our health and our economies hinges on the
8 creative vision of committees such as this one. And
9 so I would encourage you not only to adopt RGGI, but
10 also to implement it in ways that can will
11 perpetuate an audacious energy future for the
12 Commonwealth.

13 Thank you very much for your time and
14 consideration. And I hope you have a great
15 afternoon.

16 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Daniel. And
17 I hope you have a quick recovery.

18 Our next speaker, number 12, is
19 Catherine Holt.

20 MS. HOLT: Okay. Good afternoon.

21 I see I've been unmuted. My name is
22 spelled C-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E H-O-L-T. I am a native
23 Pennsylvanian who has lived in Clarion County the
24 last 18 years. I am thankful that I have the
25 opportunity to testify in favor of joining the

1 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I am speaking
2 not just for myself but also for the local League of
3 Women Voters of Clarion County. Addressing the
4 Climate Crisis is one of our top legislative
5 priorities.

6 In our western states, extended
7 droughts and higher average temperatures are
8 contributing to more and bigger wild fires. These
9 fires are torching the homes of people and scorching
10 the habitats of the animals that range there.
11 People in our Gulf and Atlantic coastal areas need
12 to worry not just about hurricanes but also sunny
13 day flooding. My son was driving to his house near
14 Norfolk, VA on flooded streets. The wave from a
15 truck flooded his engine. Lucky for him, insurance
16 paid to replace his hydrolocked engine.

17 Many believe that here in
18 Pennsylvania, we live in a Goldilocks location that
19 will not suffer many of the worse effects of climate
20 change. Some claim because we probably won't be
21 torched, scorched, or flooded out, our interests
22 don't align with those facing these risks. But we
23 have friends and family in areas that will be or are
24 being hit harder.

25 For our area, League members came up

1 with a significant number of ways that the warming
2 climate is already affecting us. Heavier-than-
3 normal rain has become more common. Some
4 Pennsylvania municipalities have been hit with two
5 or three hundred-year events in one summer. Local
6 League members have had their roads washed out.
7 Farmers have had to delay spring planting, struggled
8 to identify enough drying days to make hay, and
9 tapped their sugar maples as much as a month
10 earlier.

11 Municipalities need to think
12 differently about storm water management, zoning,
13 development, and emergency response.

14 Invasive plants that a couple decades
15 ago couldn't survive our winters are becoming a
16 problem. Bamboo wrecks havoc as it grows through
17 foundations. Trying to dig it out is frustrating and
18 time consuming.

19 My personal nemesis made worse by the
20 warming climate is the tick. Mild winters have
21 allowed their population to explode and lengthened
22 the time the ticks are active. Pennsylvania is a
23 leader in Lyme disease infections. Our ticks also
24 transmit a half dozen other diseases. Fear of these
25 tick-borne diseases keeps me diligent in doing tick

1 checks after walking in our lovely woods. It keeps
2 others from enjoying our natural resources.

3 Over the rest of my life, possibly 2-4
4 decades, these problems of invasive species, overly
5 robust weather events, and others will just keep
6 getting worse no matter what we do because it takes
7 a long time to turn around a gigantic system like
8 planetary climate. But The National Oceanic and
9 Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, assures us, we can
10 slow the rate and limit the amount of global warming
11 by reducing human emissions of heat-trapping gases
12 and soot or black carbon.

13 Just like with the tick problem, an
14 important step in addressing the climate crises is
15 awareness. Just hosting testimony about RGGI has
16 motivated dozens of people to research and think
17 about the issues. The fees that greenhouse-gas
18 producers will pay once we join RGGI will focus
19 attention on reducing the emissions.

20 Joining RGGI could act as a signal to
21 change in other ways. It could affect the fields
22 that we encourage our children or grandchildren to
23 go into. Schools may offer programs geared to
24 preparing students to work in fields that will help
25 our society and our global community to mitigate the

1 worst effects of the climate crisis.

2 Joining RGGI will influence both
3 individuals and businesses to invest in assets with
4 smaller warming potential. We will need to reduce
5 emissions of methane, refrigerants, and soot as well
6 as carbon dioxide, but joining RGGI to help reduce
7 carbon dioxide is a good step forward. Thank you.

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Catherine.

9 Speaker number 13 is Nora Elmarzouky.

10 MS. ELMARZOUKY: Hi. Can you hear me?

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, Nora. Please go
12 ahead.

13 MS. ELMARZOUKY: Thanks.

14 My name is Nora Elmarzouky, N-O-R-A E-
15 L-M-A-R-Z-O-U-K-Y. I'm a resident of Philadelphia,
16 Pennsylvania. I'm a climate justice organizer and
17 resident in Philadelphia. Thank you for giving me
18 the opportunity to participate in this public
19 hearing which you've made more accessible than other
20 hearings in the past. Climate change is undeniable.
21 As we see dramatic weather shifts, hurricanes,
22 typhoons, as well as other events here in
23 Pennsylvania.

24 We have faced extensive power outages
25 due to extreme weather events, including that of

1 Isaiah that hit Southeastern PA earlier this year.
2 My home in Egypt faces rising sea levels due to
3 melting ice caps is destroying agriculture along the
4 northern Nile River basin. Scientific evidence,
5 which I am sure you have heard much of the
6 statistics, proves that the pollution that is
7 emitted from the fossil fuel industry is directly
8 correlated with this climate change.

9 We also know that the communities that
10 face the brunt of both climate change and
11 environmental degradation from fossil fuel burning
12 power plants are Black, Brown, Indigenous, low-
13 income, and other marginalized communities. This
14 environmental degradation and harm causes decreased
15 property values of the surrounding communities
16 around these plants, compounding the issues faced.
17 These polluting power plants are making our
18 communities sick.

19 Recent studies show that communities
20 surround power plants have had higher rates of
21 COVID-19 largely often due to pre-existing health
22 conditions caused by these polluting industries.
23 But it doesn't have to be that way. It is possible
24 to begin to reverse these impacts and repair past
25 harms with RGGI.

1 As we have seen from other states,
2 RGGI has lowered carbon emissions, increased state
3 GDP, and saved people money on electric bills and
4 hospitalization costs. RGGI is an opportunity to
5 put the first brick in place for a just transition
6 for dying industries like coal to transition to
7 other industries such as the clean power - such as
8 clean power energy.

9 However, we want to ensure that the
10 RGGI rulemaking is developed in an equitable and
11 inclusive manner, taking into consideration the
12 harms mentioned. That means while the state may be
13 benefiting in all these ways, it is equally, if not
14 more important, for the frontline communities that
15 are neighbors of these power plants to also receive
16 these same benefits, especially in health outcomes
17 in air quality, which has been promised through
18 RGGI.

19 So I call on you to incorporate the
20 necessary mechanisms into the rulemaking that
21 protects frontline communities and repairs these
22 past and present harms. By incorporating equity
23 measures into RGGI, we have an opportunity to
24 address community development, tackling multiple
25 issues related to the quality of life through a

1 clean energy pathway.

2 We know that living wage clean energy
3 jobs are exponentially increasing and Pennsylvanians
4 want more renewable energy, while the coal industry
5 is dying out. It is critical for PA to begin to
6 take the steps towards supporting the communities to
7 build transition plans that can address job loss and
8 as the carbon limits decrease through RGGI.

9 The revenue generated from RGGI can be
10 invested in communities on the frontlines through
11 the Clean Air Act. That revenue can be used towards
12 energy efficiency, green space development, utility
13 bill subsidies, and the development of clean
14 renewable energy. At the same time, there must be
15 supplemental funds to design the workforce
16 development pathways and individual and community
17 support for a just transition. I support the idea of
18 RGGI and what RGGI could be.

19 I implore that you do not do business
20 as usual and think about who needs to be protected
21 through this bill, so that we see lowered greenhouse
22 gas emissions across the state and in community,
23 improved health outcomes, and renewable energy
24 access for all Pennsylvanians. It is the
25 constitutional responsibility of the Department of

1 Environmental Protection to protect citizens'
2 absolute right to clean air, pure water, and the
3 preservation of natural, scenic, historic, and
4 esthetic values of the environment.

5 Take that responsibility seriously and
6 pass RGGI with equitable principles incorporated
7 into the rulemaking. Thank you.

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Nora.

9 Speaker number 14 informed us she
10 would not be able to attend today. So speaker
11 number 15 is Susan Price. Do we have Susan?

12 MR. JAGIELA: She's unmuted.

13 MS. GRIFFIN: All right.

14 Susan? Okay. We'll come back to her
15 then.

16 So speaker number 16 was not able to
17 be here. Speaker number 17, Carol Buskirk.

18 MS. BUSKIRK: Hi there. This is
19 Carol.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Hi, Carol.

21 MS. BUSKIRK: Hi. My name is Carol,
22 C-A-R-O-L, Buskirk. Bus like school bus, Kirk like
23 Captain Kirk, one word. I live in West Hanover
24 Township. My address is Harrisburg. And I am
25 speaking as a member of PennFuture today.

1 I support RGGI and I want to tell you
2 about my personal concern regarding the health
3 effects of air pollution in our region. My own
4 family's experience was our first grandchild was
5 rushed to the hospital three times during her first
6 year for breathing problems that didn't respond to
7 home treatment. Our family doctor simply attributed
8 her condition to life in our region.

9 Then three days after her first
10 birthday, there was a night when nothing would
11 relieve her wheezing. At 11:30 pm, she was rushed
12 to the ER once again at our local west shore
13 hospital. After 30 minutes of hospital-grade
14 treatment, the hospital told her that Thea needed to
15 go immediately to the Children's Hospital at Hershey
16 Medical Center. Before my daughter and her husband
17 knew what was happening, paramedics appeared and
18 gently strapped tiny Thea to an adult-size gurney
19 and whisked her away.

20 Four days later she left the hospital
21 with a referral to a pediatric pulmonary specialist.
22 The practice was so busy that it took one month to
23 get an appointment. And then on the day of her
24 appointment, they had to wait 2 hours past the
25 designated time to see the doctor. My daughter was

1 told that desperate parents often waited much
2 longer.

3 Thea had mild steroid treatments for
4 the next 4 years to strengthen her lungs. When her
5 little brother came along 2 years later and had the
6 same breathing difficulties, he received the same
7 special treatments.

8 My family was lucky that we had access
9 to these resources to address the problems. My
10 family estimates that the out-of-pocket expense,
11 with health insurance for each children for the
12 general and specialized doctor visits, ER co-pays,
13 and medicines during their first five years was
14 about \$12,000. This doesn't include transportation
15 and potential lost wages of the parents.

16 In Pennsylvania, we don't own the air
17 that surrounds us. The carbon emissions from
18 burning fossil fuels in Pennsylvania affect us and
19 our neighbors. Adopting RGGI is not a solution to
20 all of our air pollution problems, but it moves us
21 forward towards cleaner air for us and our
22 neighbors. It imposes real costs on the carbon
23 emissions from power plants and will provide money
24 to invest in further reducing air pollution and
25 making sustainable clean energy and more efficient

1 air for us.

2 Thank you for allowing me to testify
3 today.

4 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Carol.

5 Our next speaker, number 18, is Maria
6 Korsnick.

7 MS. KORSNICK: Hi. Can you hear me
8 okay?

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Yeah. Please go ahead,
10 Maria.

11 MS. KORSNICK: Thank you. I am Maria
12 Korsnick, M-A-R-I-A K-O-R-S-N-I-C-K, from
13 Washington, D.C., President of the Nuclear Energy
14 Institute.

15 I am proud to represent this industry
16 and excited about the role nuclear power plays in
17 Pennsylvania and the nation. NEI supports the
18 Department of Environmental Protection's proposal to
19 join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative as it
20 will better recognize the role of Pennsylvania's
21 nuclear power plants as part of a portfolio of
22 technologies that can meet the Commonwealth's energy
23 needs.

24 RGGI is a market-based approach to
25 reflect a portion of the value of carbon-free

1 electricity in prices that are clear to all
2 generating technologies. The Department should seek
3 to join RGGI by 2022 to allow companies in the state
4 to make the strategic decisions necessary to
5 preserve carbon-free generation that might otherwise
6 face the risk of closure.

7 Nuclear energy is, by far, the largest
8 source of carbon-free electricity generation in
9 Pennsylvania. The state's four nuclear power
10 stations provided over 90 percent of Pennsylvania's
11 carbon-free electricity in 2019. These power plants
12 operate 24 hours a day, providing reliable baseload
13 electricity, regardless of the weather conditions
14 and without fuel supply interruptions.

15 In spite of nuclear energy's
16 importance to Pennsylvania, the nuclear power plants
17 in the state face an uncertain future. Wholesale
18 power prices have fallen so precipitously in recent
19 years that even well-run plants can face the
20 prospect of permanent closure. And this is not a
21 distant or hypothetical concern. Pennsylvania has
22 seen this play out over the last two years.

23 In 2019, the Three Mile Island Nuclear
24 Generating Station ceased operations. The Beaver
25 Valley Nuclear Power Station in Western Pennsylvania

1 was scheduled to close, only to reverse that
2 decision in response to Governor Wolf's intent for
3 the state to join RGGI.

4 These are not isolated cases. Nuclear
5 plants in neighboring states have seen closure
6 announcements in recent years. Those plants that
7 did not close were able to remain viable in response
8 to state policy actions that value the carbon-free
9 or reliability attributes that nuclear energy
10 provides. These states recognized the need to act
11 before plants were closed. Because unlike other
12 facilities, nuclear power plants cannot be
13 mothballed and returned to service. Once a nuclear
14 plant closes, it is gone for good.

15 As the case of Three Mile Island
16 shows, not all of these plants have avoided early
17 retirement and the economic impact of these closures
18 can be devastating to local economies. When the
19 Kewaunee Plant in Wisconsin closed in 2013, the host
20 town of Carlton lost 70 percent of its operating
21 budget. Following the closure of the Crystal River
22 plant in Florida, Citrus County raised property
23 taxes by over 30 percent.

24 I have spent over 30 years in the
25 nuclear industry operating and managing nuclear

1 plants. I have lived in the communities that proudly
2 support them. I know these plants are vital parts
3 of their communities and the region's
4 infrastructure.

5 Pennsylvania's nuclear power stations
6 directly employ over 4,500 full-time workers and
7 thousands of additional indirect jobs. These are
8 well-paying careers that anchor local economies.
9 Refueling outages occur every 18 to 24 months and
10 they create an economic jolt to these communities by
11 bringing in hundreds of union-trade experts to
12 perform specialized tasks over several weeks over
13 several weeks and generate revenue for the
14 hospitality industry in those areas.

15 The investments made in these nuclear
16 plants have resulted in excellent performance. The
17 cost to generate nuclear electricity has fallen 32
18 percent since 2012 - with improved safety
19 performance. In all, the economic challenges facing
20 Pennsylvania's nuclear plants say less about the
21 plants and more about the market in which they
22 operate.

23 As Pennsylvania plans for lower carbon
24 emissions from its electricity generation while
25 maintaining its exporter status, the state's nuclear

1 plants offer a strong partnership with renewable
2 technologies such as wind and solar. The always-on
3 nature of nuclear generation provides a valuable
4 complement to the more variable output of wind and
5 solar.

6 Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI
7 will provide a clear, market-based signal that the
8 carbon-free attribute of all generating technologies
9 is valuable to the state's future. Thank you.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Maria.

11 Our next speaker, number 19, is Carrie
12 Barcomb.

13 MS. BARCOMB: My name is Carrie
14 Barcomb, C-A-R-R-I-E B-A-R-C-O-M-B, and I am a
15 private citizen from Media, Pennsylvania. Thank you
16 for letting me speak today.

17 I ask that you add Pennsylvania to the
18 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I am a mother,
19 concerned about climate change and the future
20 welfare of my four children. I have lived in
21 economically depressed, former anthracite mining
22 communities in Luzerne County. I now live in a
23 suburb which is witnessing ongoing destruction of
24 land and water from a pipeline which carries
25 hazardous liquid gas through Delaware County.

1 I want to focus on environmental
2 justice for indigenous people. The land I live on
3 was traditionally inhabited by the Lenni-Lenape, or
4 Original People, who served as stewards of the land
5 and waterways. They have inhabited Pennsylvania,
6 Delaware, New Jersey, and New York for over 10,000
7 years.

8 We know that our climate crisis
9 disproportionately impacts indigenous communities,
10 whose sovereignty is deeply connected to the land.
11 Historically the Lenape people have suffered
12 economically and culturally from dispossession of
13 land in all its forms.

14 According to the EPA, there is
15 recognition for the need to work with all indigenous
16 peoples to effectively provide for environmental and
17 public health protection. Yet today, expansion of
18 fossil fuel infrastructures impacts rural, suburban,
19 and urban areas across Pennsylvania.

20 This direction is in stark contrast to
21 the Lenape knowledge system containing
22 sustainability practices and trusted honorable
23 leadership.

24 The late Nanticoke-Lenape Chief Quiet
25 Thunder called for people to live gently with Earth.

1 As chief, it was his duty to look after not only the
2 good of all people, but also to live by their tribal
3 justice system, which worked for the good of all
4 Creation. He said in the East, we have a deep sense
5 of knowing that Mother Earth is hurting. There is
6 awareness of devastating events taking place in
7 nature that can be directly or indirectly tied to
8 man's tampering with natural laws.

9 He called for the acknowledgement of
10 the indigenous voices and traditional beliefs which
11 hold a sacred obligation to try to heal the Earth
12 and to ensure that seven generations of people in
13 the future will benefit from Nature's gifts.

14 I feel we must acknowledge the truth
15 of the harm done to public health and environment by
16 our state's natural resource extraction industries.
17 Because Pennsylvania is the fourth-largest emitter
18 of greenhouse gases in the nation, we must take
19 responsibility to implement climate solutions to
20 reduce emissions. We have the opportunity to do
21 this in collaboration with other Northeast and
22 Mid-Atlantic states by joining RGGI.

23 This initiative will not only restore
24 our state's constitutional rights to clean air and
25 water, but will pave the way for emerging

1 environmentally and socially conscious 21st century
2 businesses to create clean economies and
3 technologies in Pennsylvania.

4 Carbon reduction is also in keeping
5 with the EPA's goal of the fair treatment and
6 meaningful involvement of all people in respect to
7 the development, implementation, and enforcement of
8 environmental laws. As Chief Quiet Thunder
9 described, the current destruction of our living
10 world will not stop unless we all take
11 responsibility to maintain Earth's balance. He
12 emphasized that what befalls the Earth falls upon
13 all of us.

14 In this spirit, I believe carbon
15 reduction is aligned with sacred indigenous
16 obligations protecting all people and honoring all
17 Creation, to help create a livable, abundant future
18 for generations to come.

19 Again, I ask that you add Pennsylvania
20 to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Carrie.

23 Our next speaker, Number 20, is Meghan
24 Butler.

25 MS. BUTLER: Hi. Can you hear me?

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Megan. Go
2 ahead.

3 MS. BUTLER: Hi. My name is Meghan
4 Butler. That's M-E-G-H-A-N B-U-T-L-E-R. Thank you
5 for providing this opportunity to speak.

6 I live in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and
7 I am here today testifying as a private citizen in
8 support of Pennsylvania joining the Regional
9 Greenhouse Gas Initiative as soon as possible.

10 I moved to Pennsylvania this past June
11 to start a graduate program. Previously, I lived in
12 Michigan and worked as a middle school teacher.
13 Over just a short, 5-year career, I noticed
14 something about my students. Before the school
15 started each year, I would go through each class
16 roster and make a chart of the students with any
17 health conditions. As I completed this task each
18 year, I noticed the number of students with asthma
19 increasing, especially when comparing my last year
20 of teaching to my first year of teaching.

21 What is interesting is that the
22 average air quality in the United States was
23 steadily increasing up until 2016, when it started
24 to decrease again. And this period was during my
25 time as a teacher. And this happened in a state

1 with better air quality on average than
2 Pennsylvania.

3 Now, I am not a teacher in
4 Pennsylvania, so I do not have access to the records
5 like I viewed in Michigan, but I would bet that
6 there is a similar trend with the children in
7 Pennsylvania and worry that it will only get worse
8 if action is not taken.

9 As I said before, I came to
10 Pennsylvania to complete a graduate program. I am
11 currently working towards my MBA in Sustainable
12 Business Practices. I left my career as a teacher
13 because I am concerned about the future of our
14 country and the world. The effects of greenhouse
15 gases on our air and environmental quality is
16 staggering.

17 And a large proportion of greenhouse
18 gas emissions can be attributed to the energy
19 industry. I hope to be an agent of change within
20 the business sector, showing that companies can
21 realize financial gains not at the expense of people
22 and planet. There are energy companies around the
23 U.S. that are voluntarily making changes to help
24 reduce their greenhouse gas impacts.

25 Unfortunately, there are still many

1 that need a little, and more often a big, push in
2 order to start taking responsibility for their share
3 of environmental impacts and work towards a more
4 sustainable future.

5 Either through voluntary or regulatory
6 means, I hope to have a future that is better and
7 more sustainable than today. That is why I support
8 Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas
9 Initiative. Thank you for your time.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Meghan.

11 Our next speaker, number 21, is Willie
12 Reynolds.

13 MR. REYNOLDS: Hello. My name is
14 Willie Reynolds, W-I-L-L-I-E, last name Reynolds,
15 R-E-Y-N-O-L-D-S. And I just want to thank you for
16 the opportunity to be here today and speak in
17 support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
18 and the inclusion of Pennsylvania.

19 I am talking today here as private
20 citizen. But I am also a teacher here in Bethlehem
21 and a member of Bethlehem City Council. And I'm
22 really excited about the State of Pennsylvania
23 taking leadership on the defining issue of our
24 generation. I'm not going to repeat all of the
25 excellent comments of the speakers previously,

1 including all of the economic benefits that this
2 would include.

3 But we here in Bethlehem are in the
4 midst of creating a climate action plan for our
5 city. And issues of climate action and
6 sustainability have generated support and enthusiasm
7 that I have never seen before. Every major
8 institution in our city has signed onto our plan.
9 And we're set to release our plan early in 2021.

10 People are excited for local action.
11 And you might ask why are they excited for local
12 action? Because for too long, our federal
13 government and our state legislative leaders have
14 not taken the aggressive action that we need, not
15 just as a state but as a country.

16 One of the things that comes up
17 constantly at our own meetings is the state should
18 be taking the lead on this, or the federal
19 government needs to step up. I am excited that with
20 RGGI, when can I say Pennsylvania will be in fact
21 taking the lead. I deal with young people every day
22 in my job as a teacher. And our young people, this
23 is the number one issue to them. And it comes up
24 over and over again. And they look at me not just
25 as an elected official, but as an adult that's

1 saying what is the government doing for them that is
2 going to guarantee the type of future that they're
3 hoping for.

4 The pandemic has shown us how
5 interconnected we really are as a community. And
6 these issues of climate action are about equity and
7 climate justice. We are not fulfilling our promises
8 to our citizens if we don't take more aggressive
9 action in building sustainable communities across
10 our state.

11 RGGI might seem like one step to us.
12 But it's one step in a much, much, larger march that
13 we need to take as a community and as a state to
14 make sure that we have cities and towns and suburbs
15 and boroughs and municipalities that are built
16 around the idea of sustainability, because once we
17 can build our communities around ideas of
18 sustainability, it's that much easier to take care
19 of all of these other issues that we are dealing
20 with on a local level.

21 We need to do better as a state when
22 it comes to planning for our future and for our
23 children's future. And I'm excited that
24 Pennsylvania is looking ahead to that future.

25 Thank you again for the opportunity to

1 speak in support of Pennsylvania's inclusion in RGGI
2 and I'm excited at the level of support I've heard
3 here today. Thank you.

4 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Willie.
5 Speaker number 22 is Arundhati
6 Khanwalkar.

7 ATTORNEY KHANWALKAR: Yes. Hello. My
8 name is Arundhati Khanwalkar, spelled A-R-U, N as in
9 Nancy, D as in David, H-A-T-I. And then Khanwalkar
10 is K-H-A, N as in Nancy, W-A-L-K-A-R. I am an
11 environmental attorney residing in Allentown,
12 Pennsylvania. And I am testifying in my individual
13 capacity in support of the DEP's proposed RGGI
14 regulations.

15 In 2019, I retired from a large power
16 company where I worked for about 30 years in various
17 capacities, including as a lawyer and as head of the
18 environmental department. And while there, I was
19 deeply involved in the company's market-based clean
20 air strategies, including under the Acid Rain
21 Program, the Clean Air Interstate Rule, and the
22 Cross State Air Pollution Rule. So I can fully
23 understand the remarks made by our previous speaker
24 today on the importance of this type of a program in
25 helping to ensure that our nuclear plants continue

1 to stay functioning and other sources of clean power
2 generation.

3 I am currently chair of the Allentown
4 Environmental Advisory Council and am a member, or
5 on the board, of several community organizations,
6 industry groups, and environmental organizations in
7 Pennsylvania, including the board of PennFuture.

8 As noted by other speakers, climate
9 change is one of the most significant crises and one
10 of the greatest challenges we have ever faced. And
11 avoiding some of the worst projected impacts will
12 require unprecedented levels of action across the
13 globe.

14 In recognition of the severity of
15 climate change impacts that we are already
16 experiencing, as noted by several of our speakers,
17 the demand and need for bold, strong action has
18 grown increasingly urgent, including here in
19 Pennsylvania.

20 The growing demand for state action is
21 fueled not only by the observable environmental
22 impacts of climate change, but also the human
23 impacts, including impacts to critical
24 infrastructure and to human health. And as is so
25 often the case, the adverse impacts

1 disproportionately afflict lower income populations.
2 It is this element, the disproportionate impact of
3 climate change on the low-income, that is especially
4 troubling.

5 In the past few years, we have become
6 painfully aware of the crying need to address the
7 enormous inequities placed upon certain groups of
8 people in this country, especially those of low
9 income. Books can be written on the numerous
10 actions that need to be taken here in Pennsylvania
11 and across the nation, to demonstrate that these
12 people matter to our society. But clearly, one of
13 those actions is a commitment to do our share to
14 mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

15 In some cases, the appropriate
16 mitigation actions to take are debatable, especially
17 where those actions could impose additional costs
18 and burdens on the very people we seek to protect.
19 However, in the case of the DEP's proposed RGGI
20 regulations, we are presented with a win-win that
21 already has been demonstrated to work in other
22 states that have implemented the RGGI program for
23 many years.

24 Properly structured, RGGI could create
25 jobs and grow Pennsylvania's economy while reducing

1 energy bills and significantly improving the quality
2 of life, particularly for low-income populations.

3 In the city of Allentown, for example,
4 there are thousands of low-income tenants living in
5 apartments where the landlord has no incentive to
6 improve the energy efficiency of the building
7 because the high energy bills are borne by the
8 tenant.

9 If Pennsylvania can implement RGGI in
10 the way that Maryland has done, for example, and
11 invest RGGI proceeds to the greatest extent possible
12 on energy efficiency and other mechanisms that
13 benefit marginalized communities, and then state
14 grants could be provided to incentivize the landlord
15 to upgrade the energy efficiency of the building,
16 reduce the city's carbon footprint, make the energy
17 bills more affordable for the tenant, and therefore
18 end up with a win, win, win. The landlord wins, the
19 tenant wins, the city wins, and the state wins, even
20 before taking into account any environmental and
21 health benefits from the RGGI program.

22 In light of these benefits which have
23 been demonstrated in other RGGI states for years, it
24 would be unconscionable for Pennsylvania to fail to
25 proceed with the proposed RGGI regulations.

1 Thank you very much for your work on
2 this and thank you for this opportunity to comment.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Arundhati.

4 Speaker number 23 is Ron Celentano.

5 MR. CELENTANO: Hello. Can you hear
6 me?

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Ron.

8 MR. CELENTANO: Okay. Thank you.

9 Yeah. Ron Celentano,
10 C-E-L-E-N-T-A-N-O. Thank you for the opportunity to
11 testify to the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality
12 Board regarding the proposed rulemaking of the CO2
13 Budget Trade - Trading Program and Pennsylvania
14 becoming a RGGI member.

15 My name is Ron Celentano and I live
16 and work at 7821 Flourtown Avenue, Wyndmoor, PA,
17 just outside of Philadelphia. I am president of the
18 Pennsylvania Solar and Storage Industries
19 Association, PSSIA, and I'm also the president - I'm
20 also the Pennsylvania Vice President of the
21 Mid-Atlantic Solar and Storage Industries
22 Association, MSSIA. PSSIA is a division of MSSIA
23 where MSSIA is a not-for-profit trade association
24 made up of businesses and professionals working in
25 Pennsylvania and New Jersey and Delaware and

1 involved in the development, manufacturing, design,
2 construction, and installation of solar and energy
3 storage systems.

4 I also coordinate the renewables board
5 for the The A Coalition, which includes more than a
6 100 renewable energy businesses working together to
7 increase Pennsylvania's renewable energy markets.
8 In addition, I'm the Solar PV industry consultant
9 with my own company, South Penn Energy Services, and
10 I've been doing a wide range of technical solar PV
11 work, mostly in PA for nearly 25 years. But in
12 general, I have over 40 years experience in the
13 energy and renewable energy fields.

14 Collectively, we strongly support
15 Pennsylvania developing the details of a CO2 cap and
16 trade program and joining the Regional Greenhouse
17 Gas Initiative, RGGI. Considering Pennsylvania is
18 the fourth largest greenhouse gas emitter in the US,
19 it is long overdue that Pennsylvania become a RGGI
20 member, along with the ten other northeastern and
21 Mid-Atlantic states. Over the last 12 years, RGGI
22 states have decreased their CO2 emissions by 47
23 percent. And the electricity prices in those states
24 have dropped by 5.7 percent while prices have
25 increased in the rest of the country by 8.6 percent.

1 The DEP estimates by doing the RGGI,
2 Pennsylvania will reduce 188 million tons of CO2
3 pollution by 2030, or about 25 percent in eight
4 years. At the same time, it will create more than
5 27,000 new jobs and add nearly \$2 billion to the
6 state's economy. And you could generate as much as
7 \$3 billion in revenue for the Commonwealth by 2030,
8 most of which can be invested in the State's energy
9 efficiency renewal energy clean transportation
10 sectors by way of workforce development, special
11 project development for non-profit businesses and
12 schools and underserved communities, and much more
13 as it pertains to Pennsylvania climate action plan.

14 Of course, there are many other
15 benefits for the Commonwealth as a result of joining
16 RGGI, as testified by so many already. But at the
17 same time, the RGGI cap and trade program is
18 starting to be established, the alternate energy
19 portfolio standard or APS will be plateauing. The
20 APS is essentially a market-driven program that
21 grows the demonstration of renewables and other
22 alternative energy projects in Pennsylvania.

23 However, the tier 1 part of the APS is
24 currently set at 8 percent renewables with half a
25 percent of solar, which will flatline at the end of

1 May of 2021. With regard to solar, PA is second to
2 last in the entire east coast with installed solar
3 PV capacity per capita. Although proceeds that
4 would be generated from RGGI could be used for
5 supporting renewables and energy efficiency. It
6 can't be emphasized enough that RGGI cannot grow
7 these markets alone. Or it cannot take the place of
8 the AEPS or even Act 129.

9 The AEPS needs to be extended and
10 expanded to grow a renewable energy market, which
11 will greatly complement what RGGI can achieve with
12 reducing greenhouse gases, stimulating the economy,
13 create jobs and so much more. Thank you.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Ron.

15 I just want to take a second to thank
16 everyone for - as we've gone through the past 20-
17 some people for keeping to the time limits. And we
18 appreciate that, because we have a lot of people
19 today. Also, just a quick reminder, please make
20 sure you send your written testimony to - e-mail it
21 to regcomments@pa.gov.

22 Our next speaker, 24, withdrew. So
23 Kim Anderson.

24 MS. ANDERSON: Hello. My name is Kim
25 Anderson and I live in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. I'm

1 speaking today as a private citizen. First I want
2 to thank you for allowing me to speak, especially
3 virtually, during COVID. This also allows me as a
4 resident of rural Pennsylvania to have the
5 opportunity to speak when normally it would be
6 difficult for me to make it to a hearing.

7 I would like to talk about why I
8 support RGGI from two perspectives. First because
9 it impacts our health and second because it invests
10 in a growing industry.

11 My first point is about the health
12 benefits that RGGI can have for PA residents.
13 You've heard many testimonies about the impact of
14 air pollution on asthma and other health impacts.
15 But I want to talk about a different issue, Dementia
16 and Alzheimer's. New evidence has found a link
17 between pollution and cognitive diseases like the
18 many forms of dementia.

19 A recent Wall Street Journal article
20 discussed the link between dementia and where one
21 lives. Over 5 million Americans suffer from
22 dementia and this number is expected to triple by
23 2050. Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death
24 in the US and, in 2020, Alzheimer's will cost the US
25 \$305 billion dollars. About 280,000 Pennsylvanians

1 struggle with this disease and that number is
2 predicted to grow by 14 percent over time.

3 This issue is near and dear to my
4 heart because I watched Alzheimer's take my
5 grandmother and, this past October, my
6 father-in-law. Both of my parents also now struggle
7 with the cognitive impacts of this disease.

8 I'd like to take a moment to talk
9 about the impact dementia has had on my father. He
10 was a brilliant research chemist who had over 30
11 patents to his name. In the last decade, his mind
12 has declined to the point that he can't complete a
13 simple math equation.

14 If we do not address pollution, I fear
15 for what this will mean for myself and my children
16 and our chances of having dementia. States that
17 have RGGI have reduced power sector carbon dioxide
18 production by 45 percent since 2005 and reduced
19 pollution that is linked with dementia. RGGI may
20 reduce the rise of cases in our state as well as the
21 costs associated with it.

22 Next, I would like to talk about the
23 impact RGGI can have on area jobs. My grandfather
24 and my in-laws' families earned their living in coal
25 mining. And I reside in Cambria County, which is a

1 county that has historically relied on the coal
2 industry for jobs, so much so that a new brewery in
3 my area is called Coal Country Brewery. I
4 understand the benefit it has had on the economy of
5 this region throughout time.

6 But the fossil fuels industry has been
7 on the decline for decades, especially in the last
8 few years. To give an idea of this, in 1923 there
9 were 883,000 coal mining jobs in the US. By 2010,
10 the number has declined to 86,057 and even more to
11 52,714 in 2019. My written comments will include a
12 graph showing the number of coal mining jobs over
13 time. This graph makes it obvious that this is a
14 dying industry. RGGI, on the other hand, is
15 predicted to add 270,000 jobs to the Commonwealth
16 and grow our economy by \$1.9 billion by 2030.

17 A recent study showed that between the
18 years of 2008 and 2012, almost 50,000 coal jobs were
19 lost in the US while almost 80,000 solar and wind
20 jobs were added. In 2016, noting this decline,
21 Harvard Business Review suggested retraining coal
22 workers for solar employment. Let's take their
23 advice and retrain workers from a dying industry to
24 work for a growing industry.

25 I urge you to pass RGGI for the health

1 of elderly people like my father and for the good of
2 employment in our state. Thank you again for
3 allowing me to speak virtually today.

4 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Kim.

5 Speaker number 26 is Karen Melton.

6 MS. MELTON: Thank you.

7 My name is Karen Melton, Karen with a
8 K, Melton, M-E-L-T-O-N. I live in Philadelphia,
9 Pennsylvania and am speaking as a private citizen.
10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide and put on
11 this policy. There are so many factors in support
12 of Pennsylvania joining RGGI and many that I won't
13 have already been noted by other speakers during
14 this and other hearings.

15 One important point that industry
16 opponents to RGGI like to claim is that it will
17 cause utility bills to rise. They like to use words
18 like skyrocket. When we know for a fact that
19 electricity rates fell in current RGGI participant
20 states while they increased in the rest of the
21 country. This study will be footnoted in my written
22 comments. At the same time rates fell, emissions
23 declined in these states.

24 For every proposed regulation that
25 would cause the fossil fuel industry to pay for any

1 of the pollution they cause, the claim is always
2 that it will result in economic calamity, which of
3 course it never does. The fact that the fossil fuel
4 industry gets to pollute our air and water not only
5 for free, but heavily subsidized by taxpayers, who
6 then also pay the price of pollution, many with
7 their health has been described by economists as the
8 worst market failure in history.

9 The cost of climate change across the
10 globe is already in the trillions. Here in
11 Pennsylvania, so much has already been lost or is at
12 risk from climate change. The state tree, the state
13 bird, and the state fish are all moving north as
14 they find Pennsylvania a less and less suitable
15 climate.

16 Some of our prized agricultural crops,
17 such as peaches and sweet corn are at risk from a
18 warming climate, along with our hardwoods and the
19 winter recreation industry. Again, my written
20 testimony will include footnotes documenting these
21 impacts.

22 As one of the largest emissions
23 producers in the world, Pennsylvania has a lot to
24 answer for when it comes to climate change. And
25 RGGI is a step in the right direction. Our air and

1 water are already significantly degraded along with
2 many other components of our ecosystem.

3 We are beginning the transition from
4 the fossil fuel economy to a clean energy economy.
5 That much is certain. The question is only whether
6 we will do it fast enough to save the natural
7 systems humans depend on. That's literally what we
8 are discussing here, whether we care enough about
9 food, air, and water to join this modest system for
10 reducing greenhouse emissions from the power sector.

11 As part of this energy transition, we
12 should look for ways to help the people in the
13 communities that will be impacted by declining
14 fossil fuel industries. Funding made available by
15 RGGI for energy efficiency certainly will create one
16 promising employment shock. Let's have that
17 conversation and rapidly move forward with joining
18 RGGI. Thank you.

19 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Karen.

20 Our next speaker, number 27, is
21 Cathleen Weinert.

22 MS. WEINERT: Hello. I'm Cathleen
23 Weinert, C-A-T-H-L-E-E-E-N W-E-I-N-E-R-T. I am a
24 veterinarian and speaking today as a private
25 citizen.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to
2 comment. I urge you to adopt this program. Why do I
3 care about this? I have a son with asthma. I live
4 in Pittsburgh, where decades of pollution have
5 begrimed people's lungs and our buildings. My
6 husband and I are hikers and I care about the
7 spoiled rivers and the toxic environment near and
8 far from where coal is produced and where it is
9 converted into electricity.

10 I care because we created this
11 pollution and we have a fiduciary responsibility to
12 the planet to clean it up. 150 years ago, we
13 invented machines to make use of these fuels which
14 were abundant and natural. And humans were
15 propelled into amazing prosperity.

16 But now the by-products of burning
17 these fuels threaten the earth. And even though
18 they are deeply embedded in our economic life, we
19 have a responsibility to stop using them. Many
20 speakers here have ably addressed the benefits of a
21 carbon limit program for Pennsylvania. Benefits for
22 the environment, public health, jobs and the
23 economy. There is abundant data from other states
24 who joined the RGGI a decade or more ago to support
25 these facts.

1 We all know this is the right thing to
2 do. That progress on this has been stuck for so
3 many years in Pennsylvania speaks to the risk that
4 these changes pose for so many Pennsylvania
5 communities.

6 West Virginia and PA are the only two
7 NE and mid-Atlantic states that have not joined RGGI
8 and they are the second and third largest coal
9 producers in the US. It makes sense that
10 Pennsylvania has been cautious.

11 We have to figure out how we can
12 transition away from these fuels with the least
13 amount of harm to communities who depend on the jobs
14 and other revenue provided by them. We have all
15 profited from cheap energy and now we have a moral
16 obligation to fix this, both in the communities that
17 have disproportionately borne the costs of burning
18 these fuels, and in communities that will lose jobs
19 and much of their tax revenue with these
20 changes.

21 How will we pay for this? I support
22 the proposed carbon limits regulation because it
23 ensures that the power sector pays some of the costs
24 of transition to cleaner energy. The Clean Air fund
25 created by these payments will be an incredible tool

1 for Pennsylvania. And 25 percent of the fund is
2 ear-marked by HB 2856 to support worker and
3 community transitions. This is estimated to be \$75
4 million in the first year.

5 We also need the Federal government to
6 invest heavily in Pennsylvania's new cleaner
7 economy, and particularly in projects that will
8 benefit communities that have been negatively
9 impacted by this power, and those that now stand to
10 lose the most as plants are shut down.

11 Coal producers may need leeway to
12 refinance debt and even possibly to raise rates for
13 consumers while they shut down their plants.
14 Nationwide, the cost of the transition, while
15 enormous, is both temporary, and a tiny fraction,
16 less than one tenth of one percent of the revenue
17 from sales of electricity

18 Consumers nationwide, who have
19 benefited from Pennsylvania's cheap power, and who
20 can afford it, should be willing to tolerate small
21 increases in their electrical bills if this has to
22 happen during the transition.

23 As we plan for a transition that is
24 inevitable, and that is already happening, we
25 desperately need some of the most important

1 stakeholders to come to the table. Coal producers,
2 coal plant owners, workers, and coal-town
3 legislators. Together, we can reduce carbon
4 emissions, and protect those who have the most to
5 lose during the transition.

6 States who are already engaged in this
7 process have led with some good ideas. For example,
8 in Colorado, unions successfully pushed for
9 legislative language to require supplemental
10 income for those who lose jobs, to cover all or part
11 of the difference in salary between their old jobs
12 and their new ones.

13 In closing, it is abundantly clear
14 that Pennsylvania needs to adopt these carbon limit
15 rules and get started toward a cleaner future and
16 toward building a strong foundation for our growth
17 and prosperity.

18 Thank you to Governor Wolfe, Secretary
19 McDonnell, and the people at DEP who have worked so
20 hard to organize and further these proposals and for
21 allowing me to speak today. Thank you.

22 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Cathleen.

23 The next speaker, number 28, is Will
24 Bernstein.

25 MR. BERNSTEIN: Hello. Will

1 Bernstein, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. W-I-L-L
2 B-E-R-N-S-T-E-I-N. I'm speaking on my own behalf.

3 Good afternoon. Again, my name is
4 Will Bernstein. I am a longtime resident of
5 Pittsburgh, and am currently serving as Climate
6 Advisor to the City of Pittsburgh, as part of the
7 American Cities Climate Challenge. Along with
8 Philadelphia and 23 other cities across the U.S.,
9 our city has made a commitment to substantially
10 reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.
11 Through the challenge, and with its ambitious
12 Climate Action Plan, Pittsburgh seeks a 50 percent
13 reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, through a mix
14 of improved energy efficiency in buildings,
15 increased renewable energy generation, reductions in
16 motor-vehicle miles traveled, and the broader
17 adoption of electric vehicles.

18 Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI
19 is critical to Pittsburgh's climate action for two
20 reasons. First, although we are making progress in
21 the adoption of more energy efficient technologies
22 in building and transportation, without a cleaner
23 electric grid, we will not be able to make the
24 emissions reductions needed to stop catastrophic
25 climate change. With Pennsylvania's participation

1 in RGGI expected to reduce carbon emissions by over
2 180 million tons by the decade's end, this program
3 really is essential for meeting our climate goals.

4 Secondly, and perhaps even more
5 importantly, participation in RGGI, if done right,
6 can help ensure that these necessary climate actions
7 are carried out in an equitable way that grows the
8 economy while providing support for the communities
9 and people that have been most affected by air
10 pollution and will most acutely suffer the effects
11 of climate change.

12 In Allegheny County for example, we
13 know that black children are hospitalized for asthma
14 at a rate six times higher than white children.
15 This fact is shocking, but is not surprising given
16 how frequently the County's predominantly black
17 neighborhoods are also the places with the highest
18 concentrations of criteria pollutants. We also know
19 that the Pittsburgh region has some of nation's
20 highest energy costs relative to income.

21 Due to our aging housing stock, which
22 is frequently uninsulated and lacking in the latest
23 energy efficiency technologies, heating and cooling
24 those homes is much too expensive. This energy
25 burden is particularly acute among minority

1 households. In fact, Pittsburgh has the second
2 highest energy burden for minority households of any
3 city in the country.

4 In each of these cases, there is an
5 opportunity to invest the proceeds of emissions
6 allowance auctions under RGGI in a way that further
7 reduces carbon emissions while simultaneously
8 addressing the stark racial disparities that exist
9 in Pittsburgh and across the Commonwealth and to
10 complement and enhance the climate work being done
11 by cities.

12 Residential energy efficiency is a
13 good example. Residences are responsible for 25
14 percent of Pittsburgh's carbon emissions. And while
15 there are many groups doing great work in helping to
16 modernize homes, it is not something that we have
17 yet been able to do at a large enough scale.

18 These investments could also focus on
19 lowering emissions from smaller industrial sources
20 and from the transportation sector, particularly
21 diesel fueled heavy trucks and buses, as these are
22 major contributors to poor air quality in low income
23 and minority neighborhoods. And while they aren't
24 addressed by caps on power sector emissions, they do
25 make up another quarter of Pittsburgh's carbon

1 emissions.

2 I would also urge DEP to keep an eye
3 toward equity when assessing the success of RGGI
4 implementation. The experience of carbon capping
5 programs in other states has shown that it is
6 possible for overall emissions to decrease while
7 carbon and criteria pollution actually increase in
8 low income and minority communities. It is
9 imperative that Pennsylvania's RGGI participation be
10 structured and monitored so that this does not
11 happen.

12 And finally, I would like to express
13 my support for the equity principles advanced by the
14 Department's Environmental Justice Advisory Board,
15 and to commend DEP for explicitly seeking input
16 addressing equity and environmental justice as a
17 part of this process. I hope my comments have
18 offered a few useful examples of how these important
19 goals can be addressed. Thank you.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Will.

21 Our next speaker, number 29, is Grant
22 Ervin.

23 MR. ERVIN: Good afternoon.

24 My name is Grant Ervin, G-R-A-N-T
25 E-R-V-I-N. And I serve as the chief resilience

1 officer for the City of Pittsburgh. I'll be
2 speaking in favor of the proposal for Pennsylvania
3 to take part in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
4 Initiative. Over the course of the last six years,
5 I've had the opportunity to lead numerous
6 environmental initiatives on behalf of the City of
7 Pittsburgh, including the Pittsburgh Climate Action
8 Plan and the City's first Resilient Strategy 1 PGH.
9 Combining these two plans are helping to provide a
10 local roadmap for two of the twin challenges that
11 all urban, suburban, and rural communities are
12 facing, climate change and injustice.

13 Through the development of these
14 plans, we conducted a voluminous amount of research
15 compiled by local universities, Carnegie Mellon and
16 the University of Pittsburgh that leveraged the
17 insights of local utilities, the National Academies
18 of Science, Duran Corporation, and private industry
19 partners such as Siemens, Google, and Microsoft, to
20 measure our greenhouse gas emissions footprints and
21 categorize the shocks, fast moving negative impact
22 events, and stressors, slow-moving systemic
23 challenges facing our city.

24 What we've learned is that the
25 majority of our emissions, 80 percent, comes from

1 the building sector as a result of power
2 consumption, while 18 percent of emissions comes
3 from the transportation sector and one percent from
4 waste management.

5 From a resilience perspective, we've
6 learned that systemic stressors like structural
7 inequalities, aging infrastructure, environmental
8 degradation, and sector fragmentation were major
9 impediments that caused the potential force
10 multipliers with pending climate-borne shocks such
11 as the increase in landslides and flooding due to
12 the doubling of precipitation that we've
13 experienced, or the exponential increase in air
14 system inversions that are trapping emissions from
15 industry, power generation, and transportation
16 systems.

17 These impacts have a disproportionate
18 effect on vulnerable communities. To address these
19 issues from an emissions mitigation perspective,
20 we've established goals of achieving 100 percent
21 renewable electricity consumption, a fossil fuel-
22 free fleet, and emissions reductions targets at 50
23 percent by the year 2030 and 80 percent reduction by
24 the year 2050 across the city.

25 We realize these targets are ambitious

1 but they are doable, especially when partnerships
2 are developed and the policy architecture at the
3 state, local, and federal levels are in sync.

4 As we've worked towards implementation
5 of our climate actions, we've learned a lot. For
6 example, Pittsburgh and many Pennsylvania
7 communities suffer from exponentially higher rate of
8 energy burden, or the per capita cost of utilities
9 paid by household. This isn't a function of high
10 utility rates. In fact, much of our rates are much
11 lower than national averages. But Pennsylvanians
12 are consuming more commodity than we need to because
13 of aging delivery infrastructure and aging and
14 decaying housing stock in much need of
15 modernization.

16 We've also learned that Pittsburgh is
17 ranked 19th out of American cities by the American
18 Council for Energy Efficient Economies. While we've
19 improved from our prior position of 25th in 2013,
20 we're stagnated due in part to the lack of clean
21 energy innovation infrastructure at the state level.
22 Pennsylvania as a state doesn't fare much better
23 with ACEEE ranking of just 18th.

24 How can RGGI help Pennsylvania's
25 communities? RGGI is not just an issue of

1 environmental quality and addressing climate change.
2 It's an issue of economic opportunity and regional
3 and global competitiveness.

4 Pennsylvania has long been a leader in
5 energy innovation and we need to meet the current
6 call to save our environment and provide economic
7 opportunity for all Pennsylvanians. This is one of
8 the reasons why our mayor, William Peduto, has
9 banded together with mayors from across the Ohio
10 Valley, labor leaders, community leaders, to call
11 for a marshal plan for middle America, an investment
12 plan to advance the clean energy economy, build more
13 efficient buildings, renewable energy assets, and
14 support the energy workforce of the 21st century.

15 One of the lessons in our recently
16 released research from the University of Pittsburgh
17 Center for Sustainable Business, is that the four
18 states stand to lose over 100,000 jobs over the next
19 decade in the fossil fuel industries if we maintain
20 the status quo. Meanwhile, we estimate the region
21 could generate over 400,000 jobs through investment
22 in clean energy transition over the same period.

23 The call for investment is just not
24 asking for Washington resources, but also leveraging
25 local procurement and development decisions,

1 creating market-based tools like RGGI and localizing
2 the investments made by our pension funds to invest
3 here in Pennsylvania and clean energy projects in
4 our communities. We owe it to all Pennsylvanians,
5 and especially those reliant on the fossil fuel
6 industry to make the transition possible. And RGGI
7 is a critical tool in the toolbox towards emissions
8 reduction, economic opportunity, and creating a
9 healthier and more prosperous Pennsylvania.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Grant.

12 Speaker number 30 is Nancy Harkins.

13 MS. HARKINS: Hi. My name is Nancy
14 Harkins and my husband and I live in Westtown
15 Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. And I
16 appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on
17 our support for the Regional Greenhouse Gas
18 Initiative this afternoon.

19 We are very concerned with the
20 continuing contamination of air and water quality in
21 Pennsylvania and the devastating consequences to
22 human health caused by greenhouse gas pollution and
23 climate change that previous speakers have so
24 articulately addressed. We have the dubious
25 distinction of leading the nation in premature

1 deaths due to air pollution. And we are exporting
2 our contaminants to neighboring states.

3 If we are to avoid the worst impacts
4 of climate change including extreme weather events,
5 even worse than we are already experiencing, it is
6 imperative that we join RGGI as the first critical
7 step.

8 Pennsylvania's electric power sector
9 is currently the fifth dirtiest in the nation. And,
10 as the third-largest greenhouse gas polluting state
11 in the nation, Pennsylvania bears an outsized moral
12 responsibility to address climate change.

13 Pennsylvania has a moral obligation to
14 step up and be a leader in reducing carbon pollution
15 from power plants that causes climate change and
16 begin a just transition to a renewable future. RGGI
17 is the rare initiative that enjoys bi-partisan
18 support, is supported by 7 of 10 Pennsylvania
19 voters, and is supported by businesses ranging from
20 Mars Incorporated to Schneider Electric. Make no
21 mistake the RGGI is not aggressive action but it is
22 a critical first step forward.

23 There is overwhelming scientific
24 evidence that climate change is one of the greatest
25 threats we face. It is long past time for

1 Pennsylvania to take common sense measures to
2 address the imminent dangers of climate change and
3 make sure - take every step we can to ensure that
4 this is a just transition for workers and
5 communities who continue to be ravaged by the oil
6 and gas industry at the expense of Pennsylvanians.

7 Once again Pennsylvania is lagging
8 neighboring states. RGGI states have reduced
9 overall carbon emissions by one-third over the past
10 decade. And RGGI has returned more than \$3 billion
11 to participating states to be used in ways that each
12 individual state determines, most often for clean
13 energy efficiency projects.

14 You don't need me to quote you chapter
15 and verse on all the devastating effects that
16 Pennsylvanians are already experiencing due to
17 carbon pollution and climate change. Right now you
18 just need to take the long-overdue action of
19 becoming part of RGGI. It is critical for us to tap
20 into RGGI's record of success and reduce carbon
21 pollution.

22 Please fulfill your mission to protect
23 the health and safety of Pennsylvania citizens
24 through a cleaner environment. Our children's lives
25 are depending on it. Thank you.

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Nancy.

2 Next up, number 31, Daniel Wolk.

3 DR. WOLK: Good afternoon. Can you
4 hear me?

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Daniel.

6 DR. WOLK: Thank you. I am Dr. Daniel
7 Wolk, D-A-N-I-E-L W-O-L-K. I'm a resident of Lower
8 Merion Township, Pennsylvania. I'm an attending
9 physician and faculty at the Bryn Mawr Family
10 Medicine Residency Program and Thomas Jefferson
11 University. I was also in practice in Marple
12 Township, Delaware County for over 25 years. While
13 I'm also an active member of Physicians for Social
14 Responsibility Pennsylvania and Citizens Climate
15 Lobby, I am testifying today as a private citizen.

16 What if I told you that there was a
17 remarkable intervention that could lower
18 Pennsylvanians' risk of all the following health
19 problems, cardiovascular disease, emphysema, asthma,
20 dementia, preterm birth, and low birth weight? In
21 fact, there is. Moreover, it saves consumers money
22 and significantly reduces greenhouse gas pollution
23 that threatens our present and our future.

24 That intervention is for Pennsylvania
25 to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or

1 RGGI. I really want to thank the panel today for
2 allowing me to testify and also to my fellow
3 citizens who have already testified eloquently and
4 educationally.

5 While consumers in RGGI member states
6 have seen lower utility costs, through increasing
7 efficiency, they are reaping important health
8 benefits as well, thanks to lower levels of
9 co-pollutants such as PM2.5 and ground-level ozone.
10 We know this thanks to peer-reviewed studies such as
11 Lee and Park's 2019 study showing lower infant and
12 neonatal mortality in RGGI-participating states. Ken
13 Anderson previously had talked about her family's
14 experience with dementia, which devastates families
15 all over the world in increasing numbers as our
16 population ages.

17 Some of this can prevented as shown in
18 Shi, et al's study, published in Lancet Planet
19 Health just last October, showed a strong
20 association between PM2.5 levels and the incidence
21 of first hospital admission for Parkinson's,
22 Alzheimer's, and other dementias. I could go on,
23 but I am sure my colleagues have already cited most
24 of the pertinent research on the health benefits of
25 reducing pollution.

1 Bottom line, based on our neighboring
2 RGGI member states' experience, joining the
3 Initiative offers Pennsylvanians better health,
4 lower mortality among our most vulnerable, a more
5 verdant environment, energy savings, and addresses
6 the climate crisis in a way that preserves choice.
7 What better way to honor our Commonwealth's
8 promised, quote, right to clean air, pure water, and
9 to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic
10 and esthetic values of the environment, end quote?

11 I urge the EQB and the DEP to seize
12 this unique opportunity and approve and develop PA's
13 joining RGGI. Thank you.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Daniel.

15 Our next speaker is Leslie Birch,
16 number 32.

17 MS. BIRCH: Hi there. My name is
18 Leslie Birch. I am from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
19 My name is L-E-S-L-I-E B-I-R-C-H. I'm speaking as a
20 citizen today, but admit to being a fan of Clean Air
21 Council's work. That's how I found out about this
22 today. I'm also studying as a master student at
23 Penn in environmental studies. And I will add this
24 is very late in my life, but I'm very determined to
25 help in any way possible with these things.

1 And I've also borrowed sensors from
2 Clean Air Council to actually work on projects
3 dealing with air quality. And I found it very
4 interesting to look at that. So I understand what's
5 being discussed here today.

6 Fun fact, I recently purchased a used
7 Subaru Crosstrek for the few times I do drive. And
8 I don't know if you can guess why. If you're a car
9 fan, you might know this. But basically the
10 Crosstrek has the next best clearance to Jeeps.
11 That's right. This thing can get over things high.
12 And the reason I needed that, of course, is because
13 of the flooding in Philadelphia. In my area,
14 there's two locations that cars generally can't even
15 pass once they flood. So that's my reason for
16 purchasing it.

17 It's clear to me that climate change
18 is happening. I mean you can definitely tell by the
19 erratic storms we're receiving. And I'm sure
20 anybody can tell you that in Pennsylvania.

21 We definitely need to catch up on the
22 damage that we've been creating for our environment.
23 And I'm actually excited today about RGGI. In fact,
24 it's been a while since I've been excited about
25 anything environmental due to the conditions we've

1 been living in right now. But this is something
2 positive that we need to move forward with. We need
3 to move forward with - we need to lower
4 Pennsylvania's power plant CO2 emissions and we
5 already know that this program has a good record in
6 10 other states. So that makes me even more
7 confident in supporting it.

8 So I want to mention that I also
9 suffer from minor asthma. There is actually days
10 where I have to lie flat on my back because my lungs
11 are inflamed and it makes it hard to breathe.
12 That's the part we know about. What you don't know
13 about is it also causes back pain. And that's why
14 it's difficult to stand once you're actually
15 inflamed like that.

16 So it almost feels like your back is
17 bruised if you haven't had it before. And I know a
18 lot of other people have this problem, too. And
19 mine's only a minor case. I can't imagine if it
20 gets worse than this.

21 So I know that this program is going
22 to help fund programs that will help communities
23 dealing with these health issues, as well as the
24 environmental issues they're experiencing. I'm also
25 happy to hear that it's also going to help with

1 clean energy jobs which we need - or perhaps I
2 should say cleaner energy jobs. We're still some
3 steps away from that. But I'm very encouraged today
4 by everyone's testimonials.

5 And I want to add that I appreciate
6 the people that have added the social justice part
7 of this. And the wording definitely needs to
8 include this. We should always be including this.
9 Because it does not affect everyone the same way,
10 although it does affect many people. So thanks
11 again. And I look forward to this passing.

12 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Leslie.

13 MS. BIRCH: Thank you.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Our next speaker, 33, is
15 Russ Allen. Is Russ with us?

16 MR. JAGIELA: I do not see Russ on the
17 line.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

19 How about speaker number 34, Janice
20 Etchison?

21 MR. JAGIELA: I don't see Janice
22 either.

23 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

24 Number 35, Linda Westrick.

25 MS. WESTRICK: Hi. I'm here.

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Great. Please go ahead,
2 Linda.

3 MS. WESTRICK: Thank you.

4 So my name is Linda Westrick, that's
5 W-E-S-T-R-I-C-K. I'm from Pine Grove Mills,
6 Pennsylvania. And I'm speaking as a private
7 citizen.

8 Thank you for giving me the
9 opportunity to speak today. I value the health and
10 well-being of people globally. And I find that we,
11 Pennsylvanians, have an ethical obligation to
12 present and future generations of people to draw
13 down our carbon emissions. We also need to do this
14 transition in a way that makes sense economically.

15 RGGI is a modest program, but it takes
16 us a step in that direction.

17 About this particular program, two
18 questions to consider are what are the costs and
19 benefits of RGGI and how does RGGI participation
20 versus non-participation position us for the future?

21 I see modest benefits in emissions
22 reductions and health co-benefits from lowered
23 particulate pollution, as well as modest benefits to
24 Pennsylvania's economy as a whole. One modest cost
25 is an increase in bureaucracy, and leakage is a

1 factor which will decrease the effectiveness of the
2 RGGI program, but will not cancel it out. RGGI will
3 also accelerate the decline of coal in Pennsylvania.
4 This is a positive for the environment and health,
5 but a negative for the affected workers. Overall,
6 the benefits seem to outweigh the costs.

7 We can also consider how RGGI
8 participation positions our state for the future.
9 As the effects of carbon pollution become more and
10 more visible, it is inevitable that humanity will
11 respond, even the United States. The only questions
12 are when and how, and what our role will be.

13 Pennsylvania is a major energy state.
14 I'd like to see us as a leader in energy innovation,
15 in protecting the health of our population, and in
16 popularizing the carbon pricing approach.
17 Economists agree that an aggressive price on carbon
18 is a highly effective way to reduce emissions while
19 maintaining prosperity. RGGI's carbon price is
20 modest, not aggressive. But it is a step in a
21 promising direction.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to
23 testify today and for your work on this initiative.

24 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Linda.

25 Our next speaker, number 36 is Marilyn

1 Berberich. Is Marilyn with us?

2 MR. JAGIELA: She was earlier. I
3 don't see her on the line right now.

4 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

5 We'll have to check back for Marilyn
6 then. We'll try a couple more people and check her
7 again.

8 Number 37, Dara Bortman.

9 MS. BORTMAN: Hi. I'm here. Can you
10 hear me?

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Could you speak up a
12 little bit? It's really hard to hear you.

13 MS. BORTMAN: Speak up. How is that?
14 Is that better?

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, that's better.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. BORTMAN: Great. Thank you so
18 much.

19 My name is Dara Bortman. I live with
20 my husband and two children at 1655 Fairfield Road
21 in Yardley, Pennsylvania in Bucks County. I'm
22 testifying today as a private citizen in support of
23 Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas
24 Initiative, RGGI, which will reduce air pollution,
25 improve the health of Pennsylvanians across the

1 state, incentivize investment in adoption of clean
2 energy technologies, allow Pennsylvania to upgrade
3 its infrastructure, increasing resiliency,
4 stability, and security, and create tens of
5 thousands of good paying jobs.

6 RGGI is a win in so many ways for
7 Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians. While RGGI is not
8 and never was meant to be an economic development
9 program, the states that have been participating in
10 RGGI for the past decade have reduced their
11 emissions levels by almost 50 percent, outpacing the
12 rest of the country by 90 percent. This has
13 significantly improved public health in the
14 participating states and also in PA already as a
15 neighboring state.

16 At the same time, electricity prices
17 have fallen in participating states, while prices
18 have increased in the rest of the country, saving
19 their citizens money, an estimated two-and-a-half
20 billion dollars so far. And RGGI is estimated to
21 have grown those states' economies by over \$1.4
22 billion and 14,500 new job years. If Pennsylvania
23 joins RGGI, it is estimated that Pennsylvania will
24 see a net increase of 30,000 job years and a \$1.9
25 billion increase in gross state product.

1 RGGI will provide the funds to help
2 our communities with the inevitable transition to
3 100 percent clean energy. PA is already seeing that
4 transition happen as coal plants close, sometimes
5 ahead of schedule, because they can't compete with
6 now cheaper energy options, even with the subsidies
7 they still enjoy from federal and state governments
8 embedded in their business models.

9 In some places, it is now cheaper to
10 build a new solar farm than to maintain and operate
11 an existing fossil fuel generation plant. Once a
12 solar power plant is installed, there are no moving
13 parts and no further fuel exploration, digging,
14 transporting, and burning required. It just sits in
15 the sun, uses free sunlight as fuel, and generates
16 electricity for 30 to 40 years.

17 As solar and wind technologies
18 continue to get more efficient and less expensive,
19 as technologies inherently do, the cheaper energy
20 sources will eventually win. It's no longer a
21 question of adopting clean energy just because it's
22 better for the environment. Clean energy is less
23 expensive now. And continued investment in fossil
24 fuel infrastructure is akin to throwing money down
25 the drain, especially at a time when more

1 organizations are committing to divest from fossil
2 fuels altogether and recognizing the need to keep
3 fossil fuels in the ground.

4 Additionally, integration of clean
5 energy into energy markets has been easier and more
6 successful than anticipated. It has been found that
7 energy markets with higher proportions of clean
8 energy resources become more resilient, more
9 reliable, and more secure with less expensive energy
10 for consumers.

11 For these reasons, legislators and
12 constituents who support free markets and capitalism
13 should also be strongly in favor of supporting a
14 quick transition away from expensive fossil fuels
15 and toward clean energy.

16 In conclusion, while a transition to
17 clean energy is inevitable, a quick, just and
18 equitable transition is not. RGGI can provide the
19 funds to ensure that the transition in Pennsylvania
20 lifts all boats and ensures that all communities
21 have the resources to participate in and benefit
22 from the clean energy revolution. And RGGI can
23 ensure that the transition happens at the pace
24 needed to mitigate the worst effects of climate
25 change.

1 RGGI can be a key part of moving
2 Pennsylvania in the right direction and be a win for
3 all. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here
4 today.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Dara.

6 Our next speaker, number 38, is David
7 Whiteman. Is David with us?

8 MR. JAGIELA: No, I don't see him on
9 the line.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

11 How about number 39, Sean Welch?

12 MR. JAGIELA: Sean is not on the line
13 either.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

15 Number 40, Lucyna de Barbaro.

16 MS. DE BARBARO: Correct.

17 Are you able to hear me?

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

20 MS. DE BARBARO: Okay. Thank you.

21 My name is Lucyna de Barbaro, D-E
22 B-A-R-B-A-R-O. I represent Rebuilding Together
23 Pittsburgh, or RTP. We are a Pittsburgh-area
24 nonprofit working to preserve affordable
25 homeownership and revitalize neighborhoods. We

1 provide critical home repairs, health and efficiency
2 upgrades to those in need, at no cost to them. Our
3 budget comes from federal and state programs, grants
4 from foundations, donations. And in 2019 we made
5 137 homes healthier and safer for 207 residents,
6 spending \$3.1 million.

7 Our work exposes us to see deeply into
8 the state of housing as well as the state of health
9 and locality-related problems experienced by our
10 clients. We also gather and present information for
11 use by policy makers and in advocacy.

12 We have recently completed work on
13 assessing the state of lead, radon, and moisture in
14 Allegheny County homes. Since people spend most of
15 our time indoors, the health of the buildings
16 impacts the health of inhabitants. But unlike in
17 other states or counties, outdoor air is not helping
18 to alleviate the negative health effects that exist
19 in homes, but instead exacerbates and compounds the
20 health risks for our population. In partnership
21 with Reducing Outdoor Contaminants in Indoor Spaces
22 project, we engaged in monitoring outdoor pollutants
23 in the homes of our elderly and at-risk clients.

24 The data is unequivocal. Outdoor
25 particulate matter pollution enters the homes and

1 substantially increases the count indoors. We also
2 measure home air leakage. The average infiltration
3 rate is 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute when
4 houses under pressure of 50 Pascals, to be
5 contrasted with the national average of 2500 cubic
6 feet per minute. To express it in another way, even
7 at natural atmospheric pressure, the whole volume of
8 the - of the air inside the home is exchanged with
9 outdoors within 1.1 hours, on average. I repeat,
10 that's a volume air of the home is exchanged with
11 outdoors within 1.1 hours.

12 Why is it relevant for this testimony?
13 The Clean Air Act mandates PA DEP to improve or
14 maintain good air quality in our region. Allegheny
15 County continues to be listed as one of the few
16 worst in the nation for air quality. And the number
17 of warnings for code yellow, orange, or red quality
18 index exceeds most other places. Seniors and
19 vulnerable populations are advised not to go
20 outdoors on these days.

21 But as I have illustrated for this
22 hearing, outdoor contaminants freely enter indoor
23 spaces where they negatively impact the health of
24 our population. And it is especially so for
25 lower-income disadvantaged who not only live in

1 poorer performing homes, but are often collocated
2 with power plants and big industry plants.

3 The warning to stay indoors when the
4 air pollution is high is meaningless at times when
5 temperature difference or wind bring the very same
6 conditions into the homes.

7 Our region's homes were built around
8 1930, compared to the national average of 1963, and
9 have exceptionally poor energy efficiency levels.
10 From our Building Performance Institute energy
11 audits, we find that the energy needed to operate
12 homes exceeds the average for Northeast - Northeast
13 Region by 37 percent for middle class families. And
14 I compare this with the data from Energy Information
15 Agency. And is 95 percent worse for lower-income
16 families.

17 High energy use in our homes results
18 also in much higher associated CO2 emissions from
19 buildings in Pennsylvania. By joining RGGI, which
20 RTP strongly supports, would not only impact the
21 stagnant air quality issues, but also generate
22 revenue to reinvest into much needed improvements
23 for PA homes and substantially improve health,
24 comfort, financial stress - reduce financial stress,
25 and improve well-being for the residents of our

1 state now and for the future.

2 Mandates for such energy efficiency
3 improvements are also known to generate well-paying
4 jobs. RTP commends the Wolf administration for
5 taking this significant step. And we ask that you
6 move forward with this regulation. Thank you.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Lucyna.

8 Speaker number 41 is Elizabeth Bolton.

9 MS. BOLTON: Can you hear me?

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

12 MS. BOLTON: Thank you.

13 My name is Elizabeth Bolton,
14 E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H Bolton, B-O-L-T-O-N. I live in
15 Swarthmore, Pennsylvania in the western suburbs of
16 Philadelphia.

17 I have been a Pennsylvania resident
18 for 29 years. I am also a Professor of English
19 Literature and Environmental Studies at Swarthmore
20 College. And I have represented this country as a
21 Fulbright Scholar to both Morocco and Bhutan, which
22 has proclaimed itself the world's first carbon
23 neutral nation.

24 As a former chair of the Environmental
25 Studies program, I have both organized and

1 participated in delegations of Swarthmore students
2 and faculty to the annual global climate meeting,
3 the Conference of the Parties, held by the United
4 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the
5 UNFCCC.

6 As I am sure you know, the
7 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC,
8 has called for the world to reduce its carbon
9 emissions by nearly 50 percent before 2030 and to
10 reach 0 emissions by 2050. These are daunting yet
11 critically important goals.

12 My students sometimes express deep
13 frustration and anger at the lack of global progress
14 on mitigating-reducing-climate change and its many
15 harms. They point out that the UNFCCC has been
16 around longer than they have been alive, and yet our
17 global emissions continue to climb.

18 Now Pennsylvania legislators have a
19 chance to begin turning the tide. Cap and trade
20 programs such as RGGI have been effective in
21 reducing both carbon emissions and the costs of
22 those emissions reductions over time. Global
23 efforts to slow climate change rely heavily on
24 expanding such programs. RGGI's emissions reports
25 demonstrate a drop in carbon emissions from 133

1 million tons across its participating states in 2008
2 to less than 60 million tons in 2019. This is
3 impressive progress.

4 Multiple studies have also shown that
5 RGGI has improved air quality and public health in
6 participating states. Those of us living in
7 southeastern Pennsylvania have already benefitted
8 indirectly from its effects. And we need those
9 benefits.

10 Residents of Chester City, just 5
11 minutes down the road from me, experience far worse
12 health outcomes than Pennsylvania residents living
13 with cleaner air. Chronic exposure to particulate
14 matter has been shown to be a contributable variable
15 to COVID-19 mortality.

16 Environmental justice demands that the
17 Commonwealth work to improve air quality across the
18 state for the benefit of all of its residents.

19 I, too, long for my family to breathe
20 cleaner air. My daughter suffered with childhood
21 asthma. In 2013, she was hospitalized with asthma-
22 aggravated pneumonia. No parent should have to
23 watch their child's oxygen levels drop precipitously
24 or find themselves racing for a hospital and a
25 nebulizer mask. We can do better and we must.

1 As you know, the DEP's analysis of
2 public health benefits from joining RGGI projects
3 that reductions in nitrogen oxides and sulfur
4 dioxides that would prevent hundreds of premature
5 deaths in Pennsylvania, along with not just
6 thousands but tens of thousands fewer asthma attacks
7 like my daughter's. Along with fewer lost workdays,
8 we could see public health benefits somewhere
9 between 3 and 6 billion dollars. These are
10 significant savings, especially given the budgetary
11 struggles we face as a Commonwealth.

12 Joining RGGI can also help us make a
13 crucial transition to a greener economy, adding
14 jobs, and increasing the gross state product.

15 In addition to joining RGGI,
16 Pennsylvania should focus on increasing renewable
17 energy sources and increasing energy efficiency,
18 strategies which more than pays for themselves,
19 especially through energy efficiency. The
20 Commonwealth should also work to create a just
21 transition for workers in coal, oil, and gas by
22 passing Senate Bill 15 or House Bill 2856.

23 I would like to underscore
24 environmental justice comments and suggestions
25 raised by speakers such as Eileen Flanagan, Will

1 Bernstein, Grant Ervin, the previous speaker, and
2 others today.

3 We have very little time left in which
4 to maneuver. Already, earth systems are shifting
5 into their own intensifying feedback loops, which
6 will make this planet far less habitable for human
7 kind. Joining RGGI helps the Commonwealth in the
8 short term and our entire species in the longer
9 term. Thank you for considering this testimony.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Elizabeth.

11 Speaker number 42 and 43 both are not
12 available. Speaker number 44, Charles Silio. Are
13 you with us, Charles?

14 MR. JAGIELA: I unmuted his phone.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

16 We'll give him another second.

17 Charles Silio.

18 MR. SILIO: Yes. Hi. This is

19 Charles.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Excellent.

21 Please go ahead, Charles.

22 MR. SILIO: Give me one moment, if you
23 don't mind, while I mute something. There we go.

24 So thank you for having me on. My
25 name is Charles Silio, that's S like Sam, I-L-I-O.

1 I'm a partner and a chief financial officer of
2 Prospect 14, a Pennsylvania-based developer of solar
3 and solar-plus-storage energy projects in various US
4 markets, including communities across Pennsylvania.
5 I am a resident of Narberth, Pennsylvania.

6 I'm speaking in support of RGGI. In
7 particular, in support of using funds generated
8 through RGGI to accelerate Pennsylvania's transition
9 to clean energy and ensure electric grid reliability
10 through that transition.

11 By using RGGI funds to co-fund
12 electric grid modernization updates, both objectives
13 of reducing emissions and reducing rate-payer
14 electricity costs can be achieved. And that grid
15 transformation and modernization is necessary for
16 that transition. It will help lead to a
17 sustainable, reliable, secure, and low-cost future
18 for Pennsylvanians.

19 Bringing year zero marginal cost
20 removal resources onto the grid will decrease
21 ratepayer bills over the long term. But significant
22 investments need to be made in the electric grid in
23 the near term to ensure transmission and
24 distribution capacity, as well as reliability, as
25 distributed renewal generation and storage resources

1 start to come online. And this will require
2 significant grid modernization investment in the
3 short term.

4 So there are two ways that we
5 recommend considering using RGGI - can you hear me?
6 Hello? Hello?

7 MR. JAGIELA: We can still hear you,
8 sir.

9 MR. SILIO: Oh, you can. I'm sorry.
10 So there are two ways we'd recommend using RGGI
11 funds efficiently, to minimize the short-term
12 potential impact on rate payers and unlock the
13 longer-term cost savings and other benefits of more
14 renewables in the grid.

15 So number one, currently in
16 Pennsylvania, the cost of upgrading transmission and
17 distribution network resources to handle new
18 renewable generation assets and new storage, that
19 cost falls entirely on the developer of those
20 facilities. And these development entities have a
21 much higher cost per capita than the electric
22 utilities.

23 So number - you know, A, this
24 incentivizes new renewables investments, and worse,
25 the cost of grid upgrades that are made are passed

1 along to ratepayers in their power prices at the
2 highest possible rate. And we'd say those network
3 upgrades should really be borne by the electricity
4 distribution companies and the transmission
5 operators as is currently done in California and in
6 Texas, because the utilities could then earn a
7 low-regulated rate of return on regulatory assets,
8 which in any case they're going to own and operate.
9 And RGGI funds could be used to defray the costs of
10 those network upgrades and minimize the pass-through
11 of those costs to the ratepayers.

12 Number two, which is better yet, a
13 very useful mechanism was put forward this summer by
14 House Representative Kaufer in proposed amendment
15 A05947 to Representative Austin Davis' House Bill
16 1718, a bill that was amending Title 66 on public
17 utilities. It's worth a look. That proposal
18 defined a smart inverter as a device to convert
19 direct current to alternating current. A smart
20 inverter can contribute to grid support by providing
21 dynamic reactive and real power support, voltage and
22 frequency ride thru, ramp rate controls,
23 communication systems and ability to accept external
24 commands.

25 In other words, these smart inverters

1 improve the reliability and robustness of the grid
2 as more intermittent renewable resources come online
3 in a virtuous cycle.

4 So in this proposed mechanism, new
5 solar, wind, and grid-type battery storage
6 facilities in Pennsylvania will be required to
7 install smart inverters. And in order to enable
8 this, a smart inverters services payment would be
9 made to that facility of 22-and-a-half cents per
10 watt, the fee of name plate generating capacity each
11 year for the first five years of operation.

12 And that payment could be split
13 between RGGI funds co-funding it, and the electric
14 distribution company or EDC. The EDC could then be
15 allowed to recover from its rate base its portion of
16 the costs of those smart inverter services payments
17 and defer the amount of the costs as a regulatory
18 asset.

19 This approach we think would
20 incentivize and accelerate the deployment of
21 renewable generation resources in Pennsylvania and
22 do it in a way that ensures that the grid actually
23 becomes over time more robust than it is today.

24 In conclusion, RGGI is a key tool to
25 internalize climate externalities from our legacy

1 power generation system. But it can be more than
2 that. It can be an immense benefit to Pennsylvania
3 if RGGI funds are spent wisely and focus on driving
4 investment in renewable energy generation and grid
5 modernization, goals which are aligned with the
6 underlying purpose of RGGI. Thank you very much.

7 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Charles.

8 Our next speaker, number 45, is
9 Gabriella Snyder.

10 MS. SNYDER: Hello. Can you hear me?

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

13 MS. SNYDER: Okay. Thank you for
14 having me this afternoon.

15 My name is Gabriela Snyder. That's
16 spelled G-A-B-R-I-E-L-A. The last name is Snyder,
17 S-N-Y-D-E-R. I'm a private citizen of Chester
18 County, PA, a mother of three boys and a marriage
19 and family therapist.

20 I have chosen to testify today because
21 I am deeply concerned about the future for children
22 and vulnerable populations, and I support PA making
23 RGGI a reality for the people of this state.

24 As a therapist, I have worked with
25 underserved communities who are disproportionately

1 impacted by high levels of pollutants. This
2 population often lives in closer proximity to
3 polluting sources such as factories and power
4 plants. Many battle unavoidable chronic diseases
5 that exacerbate their daily social and economic
6 struggles and make life even more difficult. These
7 chronic stressors create greater risks for mental
8 health problems.

9 Ultimately, a failure to act to reduce
10 polluting sources costs the state more money and
11 resources on many levels, including healthcare and
12 irreversible social impacts.

13 I am also concerned for the future of
14 my children, and all children, who will be living
15 the daily effects of the damaged earth we are
16 leaving behind. In Pennsylvania we are already
17 seeing the effects directly via increased pests and
18 storms that cause millions in damage and leave a
19 sense of dread for homeowners.

20 I have personally experienced this with
21 flooding and downed trees in my own home from recent
22 hurricanes, tropical storms, and derechos. And I
23 know dozens of other families in the same costly
24 situation.

25 Science tells us that as temperatures

1 rise, storms increase in both intensity and
2 frequency. My home, located at the top of a hill,
3 inland, and nowhere near a water source has all of
4 sudden turned into a costly stressor requiring
5 grading, French drains, gutter guards and sump
6 pumps. As a result, every time it rains heavily, I
7 get anxiety.

8 We only have one chance to get this
9 right. We will not be able to turn back the clock.
10 Once it's too late, it's truly too little, too late.

11 In its State of Climate Services Report,
12 the WMO noted that between 1970 and 2019, 79 percent
13 of disasters worldwide involved weather, water, and
14 climate-related hazards. These disasters accounted
15 for 56 percent of deaths and 75 percent of economic
16 losses from disasters associated with natural
17 hazards reported during that period.

18 The UN just this week published a
19 report stating that we are woefully behind on
20 reducing emissions to where we should be to avoid
21 catastrophe. We cannot act as though it is not our
22 problem any more.

23 Tragically, much like our collective
24 COVID experience, we are all in this downward
25 trajectory together. And the only hope is to act

1 now, starting with those at the top and starting
2 here in the state of Pennsylvania.

3 I urge you to sign on to RGGI, without
4 major revisions to the rules as proposed. It is
5 unacceptable that we are the only holdout in the
6 region and yet the largest producer of carbon
7 emissions. Let us stop pretending to care and put
8 our money where our mouths are. Begin genuinely
9 investing in reducing emissions and cleaner energy
10 for all Pennsylvanians. Thank you.

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Gabriela.

12 Speaker number 46 is Chuck Marshall.

13 MR. MARSHALL: Hello, can you hear me?

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

16 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

17 Chuck or Charles Marshall. I live in
18 Bailey, Pennsylvania in Chester County. I was an
19 environmental consultant for 26 years working for a
20 small Pennsylvania-based consulting firm. The
21 company had many contracts with the US EPA and OSHA,
22 performing regulatory impact analyses for air,
23 water, safety and hazardous workplace rules.

24 And for the past ten years in
25 retirement, I've been active in energy conservation

1 programs and greenhouse gas emission reductions as a
2 board member of the Pennsylvania Interfaith Power
3 and Light and as chair of our church's ecology faith
4 in action team where I obtained a - when they were
5 available, an energy harvest grant and installed 48
6 panels on the roof of our church.

7 I did not - as a professional work on
8 the acid precipitation rules in the '80s, but I was
9 following that very closely because it was of major
10 interest and followed the allowances program and the
11 various market events. So my first comment
12 pertaining to RGGI is that I think designing a
13 program for greenhouse gasses using the acid
14 precipitation program is a very wise and logical
15 step. I have both a Masters in Environmental
16 Science, as well as an MBA.

17 So I'm an environmentalist who is very
18 cost conscious. I think a properly designed cap and
19 trade program can reduce large quantities of
20 greenhouse gasses in a least-cost manner while
21 affecting a large quantity of greenhouse gas
22 emissions. So it's, in my mind, getting a 30-
23 percent reduction by 2030 will be a major
24 achievement.

25 And in my reading of the rulemaking

1 for RGGI, I think it's a very carefully designed
2 program that takes into account some of the features
3 of Pennsylvania's situation, such as combustion of
4 the waste coal fired units, highly impacted
5 communities and individuals and methods of
6 sequestering CO2.

7 I'd like to summarize or give ten
8 reasons why I think this rulemaking is - will be
9 beneficial to Pennsylvania. It's all based upon a
10 reading of the rulemaking. In my mind, the control
11 cost for the power sector are reasonable. And as
12 these costs are passed on by the power sector, the
13 economic impact on Pennsylvania is - Pennsylvanians
14 is I think also reasonable.

15 There will be an overall positive cost
16 benefit relationship for this rule, assuming the
17 allowance revenues can be invested in the way
18 suggested by the proposed rule. I like it that the
19 funds can be used to aide highly impacted
20 communities and individuals. I think that's a
21 design aspect that's often overlooked in various
22 programs.

23 The program allows for great
24 flexibility and not - does not follow the normal
25 command and control type of air or water type of

1 regulation.

2 The co-control of other air pollutants
3 like SO2 and NOx creates very important coincidental
4 benefits. I think the rule did a good thing of
5 designing how to provide to coal waste fired units.
6 And adding a feature to bank commissions into the
7 future is - is a good feature. And I also like the
8 positive impact of using revenues to stimulate
9 renewable energy as a member of various non-profit
10 organizations and places of worship. I don't think
11 there's enough incentives for renewable energy or
12 enough tax breaks for the non-profit owner.

13 And finally, I think that the real
14 permanent and verifiable carbon sequestration
15 methods of controlling CO2 emissions that are built
16 into the program as credits is a positive effect of
17 other sectors in Pennsylvania. Thank you.

18 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Charles.

19 Our next speaker, number 47, is Elise
20 Yoder.

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

22 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Elise.

23 MS. YODER: I'm Elise Yoder,
24 E-L-I-S-E Y-O-D-E-R from Pittsburgh, speaking on
25 behalf of 350 Pittsburgh, in support of joining

1 RGGI. 350 Pittsburgh is an affiliate of 350.org, a
2 global climate action group founded by Bill
3 McKibben.

4 As our name indicates, we're trying to
5 bring the atmosphere back to 350 parts per million
6 of carbon dioxide. Our focus is local. We work
7 with local universities, the Pittsburgh City
8 Council, and the Allegheny County Council on climate
9 action and carbon neutrality plans. But we also
10 encourage our members to get involved in their
11 neighborhoods.

12 I lived in the borough of Forest
13 Hills, an eastern suburb of Pittsburgh. I fell in
14 love with the place the first time I saw it almost
15 30 years ago. Forest Hills is small, only one and a
16 half square miles, with 3,500 housing units. What
17 we do have a lot of is trees. We've been a US Tree
18 City since 1976. And 50 percent of our land has a
19 mature tree canopy.

20 But climate change is endangering our
21 trees. For example, we have lots of hemlocks.
22 Higher temperatures have enabled a pest called the
23 hemlock woolly adelgid to thrive. Basically they
24 suck the sap from the tree until it is dead, often
25 within three to five years.

1 More frequent storms are increasing
2 our landslide hazard. Fifty (50) percent of our
3 land area, including my house, is vulnerable to
4 landslides due to steep terrain, undermined areas
5 from prior coal mining, and past building unfilled
6 land. In the past three years, there have been four
7 significant landslides with house destruction and
8 road collapse.

9 Also, we're breathing bad air. Forest
10 Hills lies in the airshed of the industrial
11 emissions from Braddock and Homestead, where ongoing
12 operations caused orange or red air quality alerts
13 on 20 - I'm sorry, on 12 days in 2019.

14 Forest Hills is getting our climate
15 act together. In 2018, we opened a net zero energy
16 borough building. And we're developing a
17 comprehensive climate action plan. It addresses
18 local greenhouse gas emissions, tree management,
19 pedestrian access, stormwater management, waste
20 management, and public transportation.

21 Here's the thing, though. Like I
22 said, Forest Hills is small. We're going to do what
23 we can, but frankly our greenhouse emissions are a
24 drop in the bucket. The greenhouse gas emission
25 caps of RGGI put the efforts of neighborhoods like

1 Forest Hills into a larger picture. It lets us, in
2 effect, join with the people across the Northeast
3 and mid-Atlantic to protect everyone's
4 neighborhoods. Thank you.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Elise.

6 Our next speaker is number 48, Sonya
7 Kripke.

8 MS. KRIFE: Hi. Can you hear me?

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can.

10 MS. KRIFE: Great. My name is Sonya
11 Kripke. That's spelled S-O-N-Y-A K-R-I-P-K-E. I
12 live in Narbreth, Pennsylvania. I am a materials
13 engineer, and I have lived in and around
14 Philadelphia for my entire life.

15 I am here as a private citizen in
16 strong support of the Proposed Rule and Pennsylvania
17 linking to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

18 Climate change is a human problem.
19 As other testimonies today have illustrated, people
20 around the world today experience firsthand the
21 destructive effects of climate change, whether by
22 drought, flooding, or the increasing prevalence of
23 infectious diseases such as malaria. Perhaps the
24 most obvious and devastating short-term consequence
25 of society's disregard for the planet we inhabit is

1 the striking increase in natural disaster frequency
2 and severity.

3 In recent years, the scientific field
4 of extreme event attribution has produced clear
5 evidence linking the frequency and severity of
6 extreme weather events to human carbon emissions.
7 With developments in this field, we are able to
8 clearly show the impact of climate change on extreme
9 weather events.

10 For example, according to a 2004 study
11 published in Nature, the extreme heatwave in Europe
12 in the summer of 2003 was more than twice as likely
13 to occur because of human-induced climate change.
14 There can be no denying the role of our carbon
15 emissions on severe weather events.

16 So what types of extreme weather
17 events can we expect here? In Pennsylvania, we will
18 face increased flooding and extreme heat waves. In
19 2018, the PA Department of Transportation reported
20 \$105 million in flood damages. As the likelihood of
21 extreme flooding continues to rise, what will that
22 number be in the years to come? Whose homes will be
23 destroyed?

24 As our summers get hotter and hotter,
25 we can expect greater and greater numbers of

1 dangerous heat days each summer. According to the
2 CDC, we can expect an increase in deaths and
3 illnesses as a result, especially among vulnerable
4 demographics such as children and the elderly.
5 Lives are at stake.

6 When I was a graduate student studying
7 materials science & engineering, I wrote a term
8 paper on the mechanics of our planet's climate
9 feedback system. The science is clear. Human
10 activity, especially our use of fossil fuels since
11 the Industrial Revolution, affects Earth's climate
12 system in significant ways. The fact that there are
13 still individuals and corporations who ignore,
14 exacerbate, or deny the problem is astonishing to
15 me.

16 We as a society have been ignoring the
17 signs and the consequences of our contribution to
18 climate change for decades. Now, Pennsylvania has a
19 choice, set an example and take action to mitigate
20 the inevitable destruction that is and will continue
21 to result from climate change, or remain complacent.
22 This decision, and many more to come, is critical to
23 our future. Thank you for your time.

24 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Sonya.

25 Just as a reminder for our speakers

1 who are calling in over the phone, if you are -
2 please make sure you're calling using the phone
3 number that you provided Jennifer Swan so we are
4 able to identify you in the WebEx system to unmute
5 you. Also I realize it's about 3:45. We still have
6 about a dozen people left. We are going to continue
7 on past four o'clock, so don't worry, we're not
8 going to cut you off. And I appreciate everyone's
9 patience as we work through this list of so many
10 people who chose to speak.

11 So number 49 is Lucy Grant. Is Lucy
12 with us?

13 MR. JAGIELA: We do not have Lucy on
14 the line.

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay. Thank you, Darek.
16 How about number 50, Rachel Ettenger -
17 Ettenger (changes pronunciation). Sorry.

18 MS. ETTENGER: Can you hear me?

19 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Rachel.

20 MS. ETTENGER: Okay. Great.

21 My name is Rachel Ettenger, spelled
22 R-A-C-H-E-L E-T-T-E-N-G-E-R. And I am a junior at
23 Smith College studying Environmental Science and
24 Policy. And I am from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
25 Thank you for letting me speak today.

1 Here in Pennsylvania we are already
2 seeing the disastrous impacts of global warming,
3 including a higher frequency and intensity of
4 extreme weather events, excessive heat, excessive
5 rainfall, and negative human health effects. RGGI
6 is a big piece of the puzzle to help mitigate the
7 effects of climate change. And RGGI will help the
8 environment, the economy, and the health of all
9 Pennsylvanians.

10 Today I would like to focus on how my
11 family and I have been affected by extreme weather
12 events in recent years. I am originally from the
13 south and lived in Lake Charles, Louisiana right
14 after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. This hurricane
15 destroyed the homes and businesses and lives of many
16 of my immediate friends and family members.
17 However, due to the effects of climate change,
18 extreme weather events for the entire country are
19 occurring more frequently than ever.

20 In 2020 alone, there have been 25
21 named storms, with 6 of them impacting my hometown
22 in Louisiana. Pennsylvania is not exempt from these
23 extreme weather events, in fact PennDOT has reported
24 that it has spent \$125.7 million extra in 2018 alone
25 in flood and landslide infrastructure repairs.

1 Climate change not only has a negative economic
2 impact, but a warmer and wetter Pennsylvania will
3 cause agricultural losses, a rise in pests, and
4 worsening health for the residents of the
5 Commonwealth.

6 Other states have seen the benefits of
7 RGGI. And now it is time for Pennsylvania to join
8 this successful, market-based solution, invest in
9 sustainable jobs in our transitioning energy sector,
10 and reduce greenhouse gasses.

11 In conclusion, joining RGGI is the
12 right decision for Pennsylvania. Thank you.

13 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Rachel.

14 Our next speaker, number 51, is Roger
15 Day.

16 MR. DAY: All right.

17 MS. GRIFFIN: I can hear you now,
18 Roger.

19 MR. DAY: Very good.

20 My name is Roger Day, R-O-G-E-R D-A-Y.
21 I live in Pittsburgh. Let's begin - well, first of
22 all, I wanted to acknowledge how great this session
23 has been. There's some extraordinary testimony.
24 Kudos to everyone.

25 Let's begin by acknowledging also and

1 thanking the workers who for a dozen decades have
2 been bringing us the electrical energy we need for
3 our homes and businesses. Just as the decline of
4 the coal industries has continued unabated, the same
5 will happen to other fossil fuel industries. The
6 workers deserve a soft landing and a pathway to a
7 post-fossil-fuel future. We do them no favors
8 leaving the workers in dying industries. Joining
9 RGGI can help transition to good jobs with a long
10 future using these workers' ingenuity and
11 industriousness.

12 Beyond giving fossil fuel workers a
13 future, RGGI will help with the starkest threat the
14 people of the world face, climate disruption from
15 greenhouse gases. My personal encounter with
16 climate harms first occurred when snorkeling with my
17 daughter among the coral reefs off Florida.

18 She was so excited to see this
19 underwater wonderland, the expanse of pure white
20 coral and occasional fish. But twenty years
21 earlier, I had been there among the reefs when the
22 coral was alive and vibrant with all manner of
23 colors, and when fish were thick and wildly diverse
24 and colorful. It was heartbreaking to see what she
25 had lost, what the world had lost and we're losing

1 the coral reefs worldwide now. Heating, acidifying
2 of the oceans are killing coral.

3 Of course that's a minor catastrophe
4 relative to others far more serious that we face
5 from climate disruption. But it's a personal
6 experience with impact.

7 I also observe children that I tutor
8 and teach carrying asthma inhalers. The risk here
9 around Pittsburgh is three times the national
10 average. The difference is the air pollution from
11 burning fossil fuels. RGGI in PA will give tens of
12 thousands of children back their good health, let
13 them run and play outdoors safely.

14 As for global heating, anyone
15 skeptical about unabated greenhouse emissions and
16 climate can consult the petroleum geologist known on
17 YouTube as potholer54. His videos on The Evidence
18 for Climate Change without Computer Modeling or the
19 IPC and debunking a number of the contrarians, make
20 the case based only on peer-reviewed published
21 observational science, also a little bit of humor.

22 As for joining the Regional Greenhouse
23 Gas Initiative, I support this step with only the
24 reservation that much more will be needed. RGGI has
25 achieved lower emissions in the participating

1 states. Pennsylvania is a bit late in the game
2 relative to the region. But with its enormous
3 electric power generation sector, Pennsylvania's
4 joining RGGI can multiply the positive good of RGGI
5 manyfold. Furthermore, such a large market as
6 Pennsylvania will not be ignored as it shouts to the
7 world its commitment to solving this problem. That
8 is leadership.

9 We have transitioned from burning wood
10 and manure, to coal, petroleum, natural gas and
11 nuclear power. We are not suddenly incompetent. We
12 can do another energy transition since our futures
13 and our lives depend on it.

14 For those who believe that market
15 forces are problem-solvers, like the aforesaid
16 potholer⁵⁴, the RGGI approach has great appeal.
17 Good will and commitment from all sides is needed,
18 including people comfortable with conservative
19 market-based solutions.

20 Still, implementation of pollution
21 credit trading markets holds a risk of further harm
22 to communities already suffering from poor air
23 quality. Market forces often achieve their
24 efficiencies by foisting burdens on communities that
25 cannot easily defend themselves from dumped

1 pollution. I urge the Department of Environmental
2 Protection and the Governor to keep a sharp eye out
3 for these injustices as PA joins RGGI. Thank you
4 very much for letting me speak on this topic.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Roger.

6 Our next speaker, number 52, is Phoebe
7 Reese.

8 MS. REESE: Hello. Can you hear me?

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Phoebe.

10 MS. REESE: Hi. My name is Phoebe
11 Shackeroff Reese. I serve as co-chair of the
12 Climate Reality Project Pittsburgh and Southwestern
13 Pennsylvania Chapter. We represent 452 members
14 across ten counties in Southwestern, Pennsylvania.
15 And our members are volunteers for a variety of
16 occupations and professions who are regular citizens
17 who want swift and equitable action to address the
18 climate crisis. So on behalf of our organization,
19 we strongly support Pennsylvania joining the
20 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

21 RGGI represents a critical opportunity
22 for Pennsylvania to boost our economy while
23 addressing the drivers of climate change. I'll
24 submit my comments in more depth in writing, but to
25 go over a few now, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on

1 Climate Change says we must go carbon neutral by
2 2030 to avert the worst climate impacts. And as
3 others have noted rightly so, that the United States
4 is - if not perhaps the major contributor to
5 greenhouse gasses, and Pennsylvania as a top
6 polluting states, we have an obligation to act - to
7 do our part. And a huge opportunity.

8 What we do here in Pennsylvania will
9 have a tremendous impact not only for our citizens
10 here in Western Pennsylvania where we live, but on
11 future generations. And I would like to bring up
12 that there's an intergenerational equity at stake.
13 My grandparents fought in World War II and, you
14 know, the - it was gendered those days, the men went
15 off to combat, and the women were largely on the
16 home front. And the Americans at home sacrificed
17 things.

18 We actually have an opportunity to
19 gain from taking action and averting a World War II
20 scenario with actions like RGGI. And we're -
21 Western Pennsylvania is already feeling the impacts
22 of climate change and we need to leave a sustainable
23 future for those who come after us like our
24 forebears left good things, an infrastructure for
25 us.

1 In terms of the local impacts of
2 climate change, others have mentioned the increased
3 excessive heat days which are defined as
4 temperatures above 90 degrees. And the rise in heat
5 is not distributed evenly. Urban settings suffer
6 from what is called the heat island effect, wherein
7 because of the asphalt, the buildings, and the car
8 emissions, and the proximity of the structures,
9 cities get much hotter on a, quote, unquote, 90
10 degree day than a suburban or rural area.

11 And this impacts our community members
12 disproportionately, particularly vulnerable
13 populations. The Pennsylvania Auditor General had
14 issued a report on the rising cost of inaction of
15 climate change in 2019 about a year ago and noted
16 that prolonged heat can be especially dangerous to
17 people who are old, the young and sick, and
18 especially for those who don't have access to air
19 conditioning or cooling centers. And in
20 Pennsylvania, heat is the most common cause of death
21 among weather-related fatalities in the last 30
22 years.

23 And it impacts the learning of our
24 children. It impacts children's ability to learn in
25 schools about air conditioning. Due to lack of air

1 conditioning, Pennsylvania school officials will
2 dismiss children on the hottest days and that causes
3 disruptions to their education and creates burdens
4 for working parents. And in Pittsburgh, it's been
5 analyzed that the cost to add air conditioning could
6 be up to \$100,000,000.

7 So this is - things like RGGI where
8 we're mitigating climate change has direct impact on
9 - on - you know, there's a cost of inaction. We've
10 also had an increase in participation which has led
11 to flooding, landslides, and considerable damages to
12 our homes, businesses, and road infrastructure.
13 Flooding in the past three years has wiped out our
14 community members' homes, disrupted small
15 businesses. And in the township where I live,
16 floods washed away our children's playgrounds and
17 baseball fields.

18 Again, it's an emotional and physical
19 toll in the present. And it's an increasing - it's
20 an immediate expense, an expense that's going to get
21 worse if we do nothing. And of course we're home to
22 the - Pittsburgh is home to the famous Sinkhole Bus.
23 And Allegheny County even had so many landslides
24 that it created an interactive map to track them.

25 So Pennsylvania was once the home of

1 the first industrial revolution. As Pittsburgh,
2 Western Pennsylvania, we are poised to be the hub of
3 a second industrial revolution. With the public's
4 support and the political will, we've got the
5 trained skilled labor, we've got the ingenuity.
6 There's a lot of opportunity to have jobs and a
7 sustainable future for our children. Thank you.

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Phoebe.

9 Our next speaker, number 53, is Stella
10 Buccella.

11 MS. BUCCELLA: Hi. Can you hear me?

12 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Stella.

13 Please go ahead.

14 MS. BUCCELLA: Hi. My name is Stella
15 Buccella, B-U-C-C-E-L-L-A. And I am a resident of
16 Philadelphia Pennsylvania. I am 68 years old and I
17 just want to say I have had the privilege of
18 traveling throughout the United States and many
19 places throughout the world. And I have experienced
20 the wonders that this planet has to offer.

21 I also have experienced the
22 deleterious effects of - that humans have had on our
23 planet. And I believe it is our responsibility to
24 the planet and future generations that we treat it
25 well.

1 We are a country of geniuses. I
2 believe that we all have what is necessary to really
3 start to protect this environment as it should be.
4 It is really on us to preserve the planet for your
5 children, because I don't have any, and future
6 generations. And we are only here borrowing the
7 earth. We don't own it. So I wholeheartedly
8 support this regulation and trust that the powers
9 that be will move ahead in this direction.

10 Thank you very much

11 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Stella.

12 Our next speaker, number 54, is Lisa
13 Rosenberger.

14 MS. ROSENBERGER: Hello?

15 MS. GRIFFIN: Hello, Lisa.

16 MS. ROSENBERGER: Yes. Can you hear
17 me?

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

20 MRS. ROSENBERGER: Okay.

21 My name is Lisa Rosenberger, L-I-S-A
22 R-O-S-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R. And I have been a proud
23 resident of Pennsylvania for all of my 67 years. I
24 was born and raised in beautiful Berks County and
25 now live in Philadelphia. I am speaking as a

1 private citizen in support of Pennsylvania joining
2 the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

3 I have had a strong interest in
4 environmental issues since my childhood. And I
5 studied economics and environmental science at the
6 University of Pennsylvania in the early 1970s. It
7 was there that I first learned about the warming
8 effects of carbon dioxide emissions on the Earth's
9 climate. So the facts of global warming are
10 certainly nothing new, but scientists then didn't
11 know how quickly the warming would occur or how
12 severe the effects would be.

13 Well, I have followed the issue with
14 interest and growing alarm in the years since. And
15 even though it has become increasingly clear that
16 this is a catastrophe in the making, our response
17 has been agonizingly slow. We are in the midst of a
18 crisis unlike anything humankind has ever seen
19 before, of that I am certain.

20 If we are unable to keep global
21 temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius,
22 certain feedback effects, such as the release of
23 methane hydrates and the loss of the albedo effect,
24 can accelerate warming rapidly. Rapid warming will
25 in turn lead to catastrophic impacts, including mass

1 extinctions and significant sea level rise, leading
2 to mass migrations of desperate people. Whether
3 human civilization can survive these upheavals is
4 far from certain.

5 I worked on environmental issues for
6 many years in both government and the private
7 sector. And I had a second career teaching math and
8 science, including environmental science, to high
9 school students. So I am familiar with and have
10 fought for many different environmental causes. At
11 this point, however, I find it difficult to get
12 excited about solid waste, water pollution, or
13 endangered species, simply because the scale of
14 those issues pales in comparison to the issue of
15 global warming.

16 When my students ask me what they can
17 do to help, I tell them the most important single
18 thing they can do is to vote for candidates that
19 support urgent action on climate. Because this is
20 much too big a problem to be solved by individuals
21 turning down their thermostats or recycling. And
22 when they ask what government should do, I say
23 everything it can. Because we need to be doing
24 everything we possibly can to make a rapid
25 transition from fossil fuels to clean energy

1 sources.

2 RGGI is no silver bullet, but joining
3 the initiative would be a good start for
4 Pennsylvania. Cap and trade programs have already
5 shown their effectiveness in the U.S. for sulfur
6 dioxide and nitrous oxide, and are being used for
7 carbon in many other states. It's time for
8 Pennsylvania to step up and join in.

9 I will leave you with one parting
10 thought. When confronted with situations that
11 provoke anxiety, a question that I sometimes ask
12 myself is what's the worst that could happen?
13 Typically the answer is nothing too terrible,
14 certainly not the end of the world. Well, when it
15 comes to global warming, when I ask myself what's
16 the worst that could happen, the answer is that the
17 world as we know it may indeed end. We are facing a
18 future that is frankly terrifying. Let's not leave
19 that legacy to our children and grandchildren.
20 Let's move ahead with RGGI to encourage utilities to
21 make the switch to clean energy now. Thank you.

22 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Lisa.

23 Our next speaker, number 55, is
24 Maryanne Zakreski.

25 MS. ZAKRESKI: Hi. Can you hear me?

1 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Maryanne.
2 Please go ahead.

3 MS. ZAKRESKI: Okay.

4 My name is Maryanne Zakreski,
5 M-A-R-Y-A-N-N-E Z as in Zebra, A-K-R-E-S-K-I. I
6 currently live in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania in
7 Montgomery County. I grew up in Claymont, Delaware
8 just south of the Marcus Hook in Pennsylvania, the
9 refinery, and downwind from the industrial sector of
10 Philadelphia. I have also lived in the Lehigh
11 Valley, near concrete industries and the steel
12 factor. And also in Schuylkill County, in the coal
13 regions. I have seen and experienced personally the
14 deterioration of my own breathing. And every place
15 I've lived people have said oh, it's just part of
16 what we do. Everybody's got - everybody's got
17 breathing problems. Interesting, isn't it?

18 I have witnessed the devastation of
19 the coal industry on many families up in Schuylkill
20 County, Pottsville. And asthma and black lung. It
21 has taken hold - the asthma has taken hold of an
22 increasing number of children that I have taught, as
23 well as friends and neighbors.

24 I believe that RGGI is one solution to
25 an increasingly dangerous climate crisis. It is

1 sensible for the energy sector to plan to mitigate
2 these efforts. The funds can be used to create job
3 training - energy job training, and have their
4 employees begin to be trained in a different - in a
5 different job.

6 It's very upsetting that the industry
7 uses the loss of jobs as an excuse instead of
8 retooling themselves and their employees in
9 employment that is more life sustaining.

10 The RGGI would be a - would be good for
11 the economy, good for people who live near
12 refineries and downwind from all the pollution where
13 they - where they can really begin to do things for
14 themselves.

15 I think we all have to work together.
16 It's not just the energy industry, it's not just the
17 fossil fuel industry. I think it's the government
18 and I think it's citizens. After all, aren't we on
19 earth to create a life sustaining environment for
20 all of us?

21 So I thank you for this opportunity to
22 speak to everyone. I've been so impressed, all the
23 science factors and all the organizations that have
24 spoken today speak much better than I can. But I
25 think you have a great bank of resource here. And I

1 hope that we can move ahead in the future.

2 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Maryanne.

3 Did we lose Maryanne? It sounds like we don't have
4 her. Okay.

5 Our next speaker, number 56, is
6 Christin Cooper.

7 MR. JAGIELA: I do not see Christin on
8 the line.

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

10 Speaker number 57, Aric Baker.

11 MR. BAKER: Yes. Can you hear me?

12 MS. GRIFFIN: Yes, we can, Aric.

13 Please go ahead.

14 MR. BAKER: Okay.

15 My name is Aric Baker. And that is
16 A-R-I-C B-A-K-E-R. I live in Ford City,
17 Pennsylvania.

18 I have heard a lot of testimony today
19 from people speaking in second and third person of
20 studies and opinions. I am here to give
21 first-person facts on these powerhouses and what
22 they do, as I am an emission controls technician at
23 Keystone Generating facility located in Armstrong
24 County, PA, where I have worked for almost 20 years.

25 I actually maintain and calibrate the

1 equipment that is used to monitor all of the plant's
2 emissions. This equipment is used to tune the
3 boilers making the plant operate at the highest
4 level of efficiency possible while also reporting to
5 the EPA to ensure 100 percent compliance of all
6 emission regulations. I've seen first hand the
7 level of commitment and the money these plants have
8 spent in recent years on striving to be good
9 environmental stewards.

10 It is very disheartening to see the
11 governor impose this tax on my powerhouse that I
12 proudly help operate and on the very same company
13 that supports many of my friends and families by
14 providing family-sustaining income with both direct
15 and indirect employment.

16 I have been following this process
17 from the beginning and actually volunteered to be
18 part of the ongoing discussions throughout the
19 process by being a voice for my fellow union members
20 at various meetings, including 2 with the Governor
21 himself and his staff. The Governor promised us
22 public input on this matter.

23 But to date this mediocre-at-best
24 virtual hearing at which those impacted have very
25 little ability to participate in is all that has

1 been done, even though the Governor has been
2 personally invited several times to come and visit
3 these state-of-the-art plants and speak with the
4 workers along with the impacted communities.

5 The Armstrong School District, which
6 is where I reside, and pay taxes, and my children
7 attend school is already deemed poverty level
8 without the added economic devastation that will
9 come with the RGGI tax which will cause the closure
10 of these plants. The outfall from these generation
11 stations shuttering is immeasurable due to the fact
12 of the untold number of ancillary jobs and companies
13 which they support, knowing that the actual
14 environmental benefit from this will be negligible
15 due to the fact the lost generation in PA will be
16 picked up by fossil fuel plants in neighboring
17 states who do not participate in the RGGI program,
18 thus causing leakage.

19 This leakage issue is not just a
20 theory but is actually guaranteed to happen due to
21 the fact that the PJM interconnection requires
22 fossil fuel generation for reactive - real reactive
23 power during load swings. And that voltage
24 regulation can only be achieved by fossil fuel
25 generators. This has been proven over and over

1 again thru the years.

2 So without large baseloading plants
3 available to modulate and regulate, the grid will
4 fail. Welcome to California, except here it will be
5 devastating during sub zero temperatures when cities
6 go black.

7 The true fallacy of the leakage issue
8 is the fact that the plants in Ohio and West
9 Virginia, which will become those baseloading
10 plants, some of which were slated for closure,
11 actually operate at a higher heat rate, thus they
12 will create more CO2 to generate the same amount of
13 electricity. There is a reason that the plants
14 still in operation in PA are still operating. They
15 are the best of the best, most efficient and most
16 reliable.

17 So ask yourself, are we saving the
18 planet by causing the closure of world class plants
19 prematurely, only to have less advanced plants run
20 more?

21 Also something that is not known
22 widely or advertised is the fact that these plants,
23 along with the waste coal plants, are helping clean
24 up groundwater by burning refuse coal that has been
25 reclaimed from spoils piles left from old mining

1 operations. If these plants shutter, the cost of
2 cleaning up these refuse piles will fall on the
3 government and taxpayers.

4 Also, because of the advanced water
5 treatment on site of these plants, the water
6 downstream is actually healthier then the water
7 upstream from these plants.

8 On a side note some of the best trout
9 fishing in Armstrong county is just downstream from
10 Keystone Generating Station.

11 Given the current pandemic already
12 wreaking havoc on our jobs and economy in PA, I am
13 requesting that all involved pull back on the RGGI
14 legislation and help us keep Pennsylvania strong by
15 retaining our title as an energy exporter and
16 revenue importer. If these plants aren't running,
17 then the revenue stream from the tax will end, which
18 is overlooked by the many.

19 I want to finish by saying these
20 hearings are not the voice of the people. There's
21 been an obvious concerted effort to only allow those
22 in favor of RGGI to speak. And those not in favor
23 have been denied the opportunity to voice their
24 concern. We were promised meetings in impacted
25 areas of Indiana and Armstrong Counties and those

1 aren't going to happen. So this is just more of the
2 fallacy. Thanks for allowing me to speak.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Aric.

4 Our next speaker is number 58, Ji
5 Montgomery. Do we have Ji with us on the phone or
6 through Webex?

7 MR. JAGIELA: No, we do not.

8 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

9 Speaker number 59, Jade Davis. Are
10 you with us, Jade?

11 MS. DAVIS: Yes. Can you hear me?

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

14 MS. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you.

15 So my address is 2538 Hunting Ridge
16 Trail. My e-mail is jdavisemail@icall.com and I am
17 from Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. Okay.

18 I attend a high school where I commute
19 to Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School,
20 which is located in Midland, PA. This area is know
21 for its nuclear and cracker plants. When I was
22 accepted into Lincoln Park, my parents had to sign a
23 nurse's form for me to take a potassium iodide pill,
24 just in case these plants ever leak or explode.

25 Obviously, RGGI is a great stepping

1 stone against eliminating greenhouse gases, but what
2 about the past effect that has already been done. I
3 don't want to find out after I graduate that I have
4 lung cancer due to pollution that I have already
5 been exposed to.

6 So my ask is that this deal includes
7 protection for those who have lived, worked, and
8 went to school in communities where the damage has
9 already been done. And I hope justice will be
10 served when health risks become - in the present.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Jade.

13 Speaker number 60 is Grant Gulibon.
14 Are you with us, Grant?

15 MR. GULIBON: I'm here. Can you hear
16 me?

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

19 MR. GULIBON: Before I start, it's
20 only department personnel who are participating in
21 the hearing. Are any of the members of the EQB
22 online listening to this?

23 MS. GRIFFIN: There are no EQB members
24 officially running the hearing. We're running it on
25 behalf of them.

1 MR. GULIBON: Have they participated
2 in any of the other hearings that you've held?

3 MS. GRIFFIN: They have not.

4 MR. GULIBON: Okay. Just wondered.
5 Thank you.

6 My name is Grant R. Gulibon, G-R-A-N-T
7 G-U-L-I, B as in Bob, O-N. I am Deputy State
8 Director with Americans for Prosperity-Pennsylvania
9 based in Wormleysburg, PA. I appreciate the
10 opportunity to testify today on behalf of tens of
11 thousands of our grassroots activists across the
12 Commonwealth.

13 Americans for Prosperity-Pennsylvania
14 is an organization dedicated to breaking down
15 barriers to opportunity of all types for every
16 Pennsylvanian. Among the most important types of
17 opportunity, especially in these uncertain times, is
18 economic opportunity. Protecting it is essential to
19 the improvements in environmental quality that
20 Pennsylvania has achieved over the past several
21 decades.

22 In that spirit, we believe that is
23 proposed rulemaking represents one of the gravest
24 threats to economic opportunity that this
25 Commonwealth has faced in quite some time. And

1 therefore we call upon the members of the
2 Environmental Quality Board to reject the so-called
3 CO2 Budget Trading Program, and instead support
4 allowing the Commonwealth's elected policymakers the
5 opportunity to evaluate alternative approaches that
6 consider the impact of any such proposal on
7 Pennsylvania's energy, manufacturing, and small
8 business communities.

9 In truth, RGGI is just a tax on
10 energy, with immediate, tangible costs to every
11 sector of Pennsylvania's economy and speculative and
12 negligible, if any, benefits for Pennsylvanians.
13 This is especially true for those of our fellow
14 citizens at the lower end of the economic scale, for
15 whose well-being so many of the previous commenters
16 have expressed deep concern.

17 According to the most recent results
18 from the Energy Information Agency's Residential
19 Energy Consumption Survey, in 2015, nearly one-third
20 of U.S. households reported facing a challenge in
21 paying energy bills or sustaining adequate heating
22 and cooling in their homes. Furthermore, about one
23 in five households reported reducing or
24 relinquishing necessities such as food and medicine
25 to pay an energy bill.

1 Naturally, our Commonwealth is not an
2 exception to the national rule. According to the
3 Home Energy Affordability Gap, more than 840,000
4 households in Pennsylvania experience energy
5 insecurity, meaning that they spend more than 10
6 percent of their annual income on their home energy
7 bills. In other words, nearly one-sixth of the
8 households in our state, even prior to the current
9 economic situation, already faced crippling
10 financial burdens from their energy bills.

11 Perhaps even more disconcerting is the
12 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's finding
13 that, quote, Pennsylvania's average energy burdens
14 for all energy sources were among the highest in the
15 country for households below 150 percent of the
16 poverty level.

17 Enacting RGGI and embracing
18 antagonistic views toward affordable and reliable
19 existing energy sources does little to nothing to
20 address energy affordability for Pennsylvania's
21 families and businesses, especially in the climate
22 of economic uncertainty created by state
23 government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

24 The above is just one illustration of
25 why requiring legislative consent for Pennsylvania

1 to join or enact any cap-and-trade program, such as
2 RGGI, is, in our view, the only proper course of
3 action, for it is far from clear that joining RGGI
4 is the right policy choice for the Commonwealth. To
5 date, one of the most thorough analyses of RGGI,
6 performed by the Cato Institute, found that, quote,
7 there were no added reductions in CO2 emissions, or
8 associated health benefits, from the RGGI program,
9 end quote. And that, quote, RGGI emission
10 reductions are consistent with national trend
11 changes caused by new EPA power plant regulations
12 and lower natural gas prices, end quote.

13 In addition, the combined pricing
14 impact of the RGGI energy allowances resulted in a
15 12 percent drop in goods production and a 34 percent
16 drop in the production of energy-intensive goods in
17 the RGGI states.

18 Similarly, the nonpartisan
19 Congressional Research Service found that from a
20 practical standpoint, the RGGI program's
21 contribution to directly reducing global greenhouse
22 gas emissions is, quote, arguably negligible,
23 unquote. Given those findings, one might say that
24 joining RGGI is all pain, no gain for Pennsylvania.

25 Simply put, enacting a program in

1 Pennsylvania that has not been successful in
2 achieving its purported policy goals elsewhere is
3 horrible. Again, RGGI is, at its heart, a
4 revenue-raising mechanism with the sole purpose of
5 allocating the proceeds to politically favored
6 industries and constituencies, while enacting new
7 barriers to economic opportunity in the form of
8 higher prices for energy and related goods and
9 services is never advisable. Doing so while
10 ignoring the representatives of the people in the
11 General Assembly, especially in a time of
12 significant economic dislocation, is irresponsible.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Grant.

15 Our next speaker, number 61, is Marc
16 Morano.

17 MR. MORANO: Hi. This is Marc Morano
18 from CFACT's Climate Depot, its Committee for a
19 Constructive Tomorrow. We're a free-market
20 environmental group and we come out completely
21 opposed to RGGI.

22 One of the things here, I testified
23 last year actually before your House committee last
24 October in 2019, and it is amazing to me that
25 everyone here believes that you can legislate

1 Pennsylvania a better climate by raising energy
2 costs, harming yourself economically, and turning
3 over energy decisions to politicians, lobbyists, and
4 activists, who are going to join up with other
5 states and try to dictate Pennsylvania energy
6 policy.

7 This is one of the worst things
8 Pennsylvania could possibly get itself involved in.
9 And what's happened here is the Governor, Governor
10 Wolf, has made a series of unscientific and absurd
11 claims regarding the - you know, so-called climate
12 crisis. And he goes through and he claims that the
13 recent weather is reason enough to pass RGGI. He
14 said Pennsylvania had its wettest year on record in
15 2018. But if you look at the data, even from the
16 United Nations, the National Climate Assessment,
17 Peer Review, floods are not increasing. Floods are
18 not changing on the number of chance alone. A study
19 in the Journal of Hydrology, no increase in floods.

20 He tries to - he makes other claims
21 regarding local - Pennsylvania weather, increase in
22 flooding and other things. And this is the key.
23 Pennsylvania has been the energy success story of
24 America. You have led the way in our CO2 reduction.
25 If you really cared about CO2 reductions, you would

1 be embracing your fracking revolution. You would be
2 embracing Pennsylvania's energy legacy.

3 Instead, you're turning it over to a
4 cap-and-trade carbon taxation scheme that is going
5 to raise the cost of energy for Pennsylvanians, have
6 no impact not only on the weather, but it couldn't -
7 it won't even impact global CO2 levels in any way
8 shape or form.

9 How do we know that? Because even the
10 entire United States can't impact that. John Kerry,
11 the former Secretary of State has admitted that as
12 well.

13 So let's not pretend that this is
14 anything but a bureaucratic power grab. And you've
15 heard testimony after testimony today of people in
16 the solar industry, people from environmental
17 groups, people from different lobbying
18 organizations, all trying to get, you know, this
19 passed, because it gives them a direct leverage and
20 lobbying arm in how they can best juice the system
21 and game the system for themselves. Make no mistake
22 about it.

23 I worked in the United States Senate
24 Environment and Public Works Committee as a senior
25 staffer. I was there during the cap and trade

1 debates in 2006, '07, '08, 09. And that is exactly
2 what cap and trade was about. That is exactly what
3 RGGI is all about. The United States just - in 2018
4 went from the world's largest energy - we went from
5 an energy importer to an energy exporter. We have
6 achieved energy dominance for the first time since
7 1952, when Harry S. Truman was President.

8 And because of things like RGGI,
9 because of things like the Green New Deal, because
10 of things like the UN Paris Agreement, we are going
11 to be essentially ceding our way and giving up that
12 energy dominance. And guess what it means? Unless
13 solar and wind can magically fill that gap, and make
14 no mistake, solar and wind are three percent of
15 global production. Let me repeat that. Solar and
16 wind combined are three percent of global energy
17 production.

18 If you go back to 1915 and look at the
19 data, 80 percent plus of the world's energy came
20 from fossil fuels. If you look at the same numbers
21 in 2017 and 2018, 80 percent plus of the world's
22 energy comes from fossil fuels. Passing RGGI,
23 passing a Green New Deal, committing to the UN Paris
24 Agreement, doesn't magically wave a magic wand that
25 everyone's going to be like oh, my gosh, we've saved

1 our planet and Pennsylvania is leading the way and
2 all of this nonsense that we've heard hour after
3 hour here with this testimony.

4 It is essentially - I mean we hear
5 people like John Kerry and others warning of the
6 national security threat of climate change. Well,
7 what greater national security threat is going to be
8 than to shoot ourselves in our own foot by hampering
9 domestic energy production, and Pennsylvania leading
10 the way with fracking, what's that going to mean?
11 We're going to rely on foreign sources of energy.
12 We're going to have to go back to fighting Middle
13 East wars to get oil and energy when there's no
14 reason to when we're energy dominant for the first
15 time since Harry Truman was President.

16 I'm urging Pennsylvanians to wake
17 up, don't let the lobbyists and activists and
18 self-interested groups take this debate over, stand
19 up, fight this RGGI attack on your energy, on your
20 economy, on your lives, on science, on common sense.

21 I'm urging this to be defeated. And
22 I look forward to future opportunities to continue
23 to urge this. There's no reason - you can raise
24 your energy cost, but it's not going to change the
25 climate. It's only going to make Pennsylvanians

1 poorer. So please do not go forward with this RGGI
2 bill. Thank you.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you, Marc.

4 MR. MORANO: Thank you.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

6 Is Ji Montgomery with us? Are you
7 with us?

8 MR. JAGIELA: I'm not seeing him in
9 the list here.

10 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

11 And I'll double check. So Lucy Grant?

12 MR. JAGIELA: I'm not seeing Lucy
13 either.

14 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

15 Shawn Welch or David Whiteman? How
16 about Marilyn Berberich? Did she ever join with us
17 again?

18 MR. JAGIELA: I'm not seeing any of
19 them unfortunately.

20 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

21 How about Russ Allen or Janice
22 Etchison?

23 MR. JAGIELA: No. I'm not seeing them
24 either.

25 MS. GRIFFIN: And I assume that Susan

1 Price never got back on the line?

2 MR. JAGIELA: Not that I'm aware of.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

4 Well, thank you everyone for your
5 patience and taking the time to provide testimony
6 today. With no other commenters present, on behalf
7 of the EQB, I hereby adjourn this hearing at 4:26
8 p.m.

9 * * * * *

10 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 4:26 P.M.

11 * * * * *

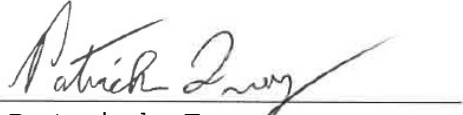
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 12/11/2020 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 19th day of January, 2021


Patrick Troy,

Court Reporter