

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Jon Gascoine <jong@cgn CPA.com>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 10:26 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Oppose Proposed Regulation #7-559: CO2 Budget Trading Program

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Dear IRRC Regulatory Reform,

I am a CPA who works and lives in Indiana, PA. If this RGGI is permitted to go into effect, I will need to lay off an employee. My firm will lose approximately 10-15 business clients who provide services directly or indirectly to the power plants. We will lose 50-70 individual tax clients who work for the power plants or a business that has shut down or significantly cut back due to the loss of their business related to the power plants. No one who is a proponent of the RGGI seems to understand how far the ripple effect will go if the RGGI is permitted to go into effect. The effect on my community from the RGGI will take decades to recover from.

As a small business owner, I strongly oppose Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it especially hard for small businesses to compete and succeed, and economic challenges will remain for the foreseeable future. There could be no worse time to burden businesses like mine with the higher energy costs that RGGI would bring to Pennsylvania.

I am also concerned about the thousands of jobs that will be lost when coal and natural gas-fueled power plants in the state are shuttered. Even more jobs would disappear in the communities surrounding them and the small businesses that support them, including manufacturing, transportation, raw materials, and vendor services. The ripple effect from these losses would impact the whole economy.

At a time when Pennsylvania's small businesses are suffering, RGGI would just set us further back. This seems especially irrational when modeling shows that RGGI will have little impact on CO2 emissions over time.

Please reconsider this course of action and withdraw this burdensome, anti-small business, carbon tax regulation!

Sincerely,

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