

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Brad Hollabaugh <brad@hollabaughbros.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:39 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Oppose Proposed Regulation #7-559: CO2 Budget Trading Program

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Dear IRRC Regulatory Reform,

Our business is already struggling to rebound from the various issues resulting from the pandemic. At a time when businesses are being bombarded with increased costs of operations for wages, supplies, services, transportation, and ultimately the cost of goods, adding a substantial tax burden seems to be an unfortunate and ill-timed decision. Please discontinue this pursuit of joining the RGGI. Let businesses in PA recover and eliminate this inflationary tax that will drive business out of PA in the future.

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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