

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Irrchelp
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 5:19 PM
To: IRRRC
Cc: Scott Schalles; Laura Campbell
Subject: FW: Support of RGGI

From: Lawrence Cohen [mailto:lawrencecohenassociates@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Irrchelp <irrhelp@irrc.state.pa.us>
Cc: Lawrence Cohen <lawrencecohenassociates@hotmail.com>
Subject: Support of RGGI

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In recent commentaries regarding energy policy in the Commonwealth, some Pennsylvania legislators grossly distorted reality to please Pennsylvania's energy industry.

Some politicians blamed last winter's weather-related collapse of the electricity grid in Texas to solar and wind generation there..."exacerbated by the state's transition from reliable and resilient electric generation of coal..." This is nonsense. The chaos in Texas' electricity market resulted from two key factors. The failure of deregulated energy producers to properly winterize the grid and the decision by state regulators to let its grid go unconnected with Texas' neighbors. At one point, the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) that controls 90% of that state's electricity lost almost half of its power generation. Texans went cheap -- not renewable -- and it cost them dearly.

I and like-minded Pennsylvanians want the Commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a market-based compact of like-minded states aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The RGGI does not set Pennsylvania on the same path as Texas. Quite the opposite is true. If the oil and gas industry

had its way, Pennsylvania would be well on its way to a deregulated fossil fuel free-for-all, corporate profits over investment, and permanent market inefficiencies in electricity generation.

Citing Pa. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) projections, some Harrisburg politicians claimed that under RGGI all “coal-fired plants would close in the first year of joining RGGI...” Really? This is out-right fear-mongering. Read DEP’s report, specifically, page 23. The RGGI policy case does “not have significant differences in generation mix by 2030.”

https://files.dep.state.pa.us/Air/AirQuality/AQPortalFiles/RGGI/PA_RGGI_Modeling_Report.pdf

Claims that RGGI will lead to “sky-rocketing energy costs...higher electric bills and shuttered employers...” are way off base. What does DEP say? “Participating in RGGI would lead to an increase in Gross State Product of nearly \$2 billion and a net increase of over 27,000 jobs in this Commonwealth...and a cumulative increase in Disposable Personal Income of \$3.7 billion by 2050.” DEP estimates a modest wholesale energy price increase of 3% ultimately leading to a decrease of 3% by 2030.

I object to those legislators who are seeking to keep the fossil energy industry happy and the rest of us in the dark.

Larry Cohen

Chair, Pottstown Climate March