



Why should all Pennsylvanians be left out?

I am testifying in favor of Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) because this will **improve human health and reduce health related costs. We are seeing more and more damages from the increasing world wide temperatures. We must reduce methane emissions and carbon dioxide emissions quickly in order to lessen the impact of the accelerating Climate Crisis.**

Taxing carbon emissions, putting a price on carbon emissions, is a step in the necessary direction. Objections to RGGI worry about jobs lost as fossil fuel electric generating plants close and an increase in cost of electricity to individuals and businesses. However, the cost of renewable energy is now less than that produced by gas even with the continuing subsidies given to fossil fuels from the state of Pennsylvania. It has been shown that establishing **carbon price & dividend will benefit healthcare, and retail businesses and construction and infrastructure businesses.** Many jobs are needed in construction to weatherize buildings, for example.

Remember that agriculture is also a very important industry in Pennsylvania. We depend on farmers for our food. Unstable weather, worsening heat, increasing carbon dioxide levels in the air, drought and flooding each decrease crop yields. Allowing greenhouse gas emissions hurts agriculture.

Today air pollution persists in our region and still has significant health impacts. I personally suffer from several chronic inflammatory conditions. I used to think this was due to the sycamore trees, but now there is evidence that air pollution from burning fossil fuels makes all these inflammatory conditions worse.

An independent study in 2017 by Abt Associates, “Analysis of the Public Health Impacts of RGGI, 2009-2014” showed that the states in RGGI had significant health benefits in the first 6 years of participation. Pennsylvanians got 6 more years of air pollution instead!

As a major polluter of greenhouse gasses Pennsylvania has the responsibility to be a leader in implementing climate solutions by reducing emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. RGGI is a step toward a healthier future for all.

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