



Stephen Hoffman

From: Irrchelp
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 1:24 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: Comments on RGGI

From: Tami Biddle [mailto:tamibid@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Irrchelp <irrchelp@irrc.state.pa.us>
Subject: Comments on RGGI

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Hello Folks.

My name is Tami Biddle, I live in Carlisle, PA, and I would like to comment on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Climate change is without any doubt the most demanding and urgent problem faced by the world's population at this moment in time. We in Pennsylvania have an urgent moral obligation to step up and do our part – not just for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren. Sound science has shown us the consequences of inaction; if we fail to do what is right, we will stand before history with no defense. Those who follow us will have every right to indict us for making their world far more unpleasant and dangerous than it otherwise might have been. And we have not a moment to lose.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a proven way to make things better on the climate front. We know that RGGI states have significantly reduced their power sector CO₂ pollution. Any reduction creates direct health and economic benefits for Pennsylvanians. The science explaining the link between clean air and human health is robust and extensive. Unhealthy air means more illness, especially among vulnerable populations like children and the elderly. But it also means more sick days for the working population – this creates an economic drain that is borne principally by citizens of the state. A healthier population means more productivity – and dollars that can be spent in the economy on things other than ER visits and medication. Healthier workers benefit PA industries directly.

Our industries and corporations must play their part in climate change mitigation. It is entirely unfair to expect (and to allow) the full burden to land in the laps of our citizens. Industry should not be allowed to push off (as an externality) the myriad costs of climate change while reaping the full benefit of profits earned in a pollution-filled environment. This would drop the full burden on to citizens – and that is not only unconscionable in a moral sense, but unsound in a strategic sense for this state (and for the US more broadly). If we allow this, we will sink into a downward spiral of crisis, ill health, under-production, and a long term failure to compete (both nationally and internationally).

The RGGI is both market based and transparent. It allows for the functioning of market forces, and thus incentivizes best practices among industries. Opponents of RGGI will protest that it will cost jobs, but there is much research to rebut this argument. Investments in a cleaner and healthier environment pay dividends, and the impacts of these are long term. If this state does not move in the direction of a clean energy economy, we will fall behind others and will become a backwater subject to the downward spiral I noted above.

I am a long term resident of the state. I was born here and have many reasons to have strong ties and loyalties to this beautiful part of the US. I also have a high income and contribute in a very wide range of ways to my community and my

local economy. But if Pennsylvania does not step up to play its part – if it allows the full burden of climate change to fall on its citizens while giving industry a free pass – then I will not remain here. I will move to a state that is more proactive, more forward-looking, and more ready to protect its own population.

Full participation in the RGGI is the right way forward for Pennsylvania.

Respectfully yours,
Tami Biddle
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Carlisle, PA