



**Stephen Hoffman**

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**From:** Les Neilly <les@neillycanvas.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:47 AM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Oppose Proposed Regulation #7-559: CO2 Budget Trading Program

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Dear IRRC Regulatory Reform,

We have just signed a seven year lease on a new space to move our business. It is larger and will already have higher utility bills than our old space. We cannot afford an estimated additional utility cost increase of approximately 17%. That will sink our business to lower sales levels, cause layoffs due to lower revenue, and lead to higher unemployment at a time when the state can ill afford to pay out more unemployment claims. The unemployment fund is drowning in debt and doesn't need any unnecessary claims caused by entering the RGGI.

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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