



**Marc Mondor, AIA**  
**Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Testimony**  
**Independent Regulatory Review Commission**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective today. My name is Marc Mondor. I am an architect and am a Principal and Cofounder of evolveEA, a green building and sustainability consulting and design firm in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I am the Immediate Past President of the American Institute of Architects Pennsylvania, representing 3,000 architect members from across the state. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania Climate Change Advisory Committee, currently at work on the 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan.

I would like to testify in support of Pennsylvania's seamless entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). My firm evolveEA employs 16 people and has been in practice since 2004, working to integrate sustainable and triple bottom line solutions into the built environment, notably buildings. Triple bottom line means that environment and equity considerations, as well as economic considerations, be taken into account into all decisions. The cheapest price is not always the best option if we account for indirect, adverse effects and longer term impacts.

Pennsylvania has been a fossil fuel juggernaut for centuries and this is a legitimate part of our proud history. We quantify what we value. Energy derived from fossil fuels creates carbon emissions and there is a triple bottom line cost to carbon beyond the dollar cost of the energy purchase. Carbon has a social cost, as we have seen in the accelerating impacts of climate change, such as cloudburst, flooding, infrastructure degradation, droughts, reduced crop yields, northward pest migration and the loss of our ski recreation areas. We are also seeing this in health outcomes related to air quality and sustained heat stress, resulting in a less desirable destination for those we wish to attract to Pennsylvania.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will place a price on carbon. RGGI is not a tax, it's an impact fee that we should have been paying all along, and this fee will incentivize more efficient energy production. Regarding my firm evolve's work, a price on carbon would help validate and provide a market signal for the energy efficiency consulting and design work that we do. According to E2.org, energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs are the reliably fastest growing employment sector in Pennsylvania, growing at a rate of 6 to 8% per year, year over year. Meanwhile gas jobs are stagnant and coal jobs are declining. If we want to talk about job creation, which brings capital to our communities, then we need to embrace this concept. What's more is that these green jobs are also healthier for the workers who perform them, working above ground and with smaller tools.

The benefit of RGGI is that it's a cap and invest program. The hundreds of millions of dollars projected as annual revenue can and should be used for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and incentives. Do we remember the Pennsylvania Sunshine Harvest and Growing Greener grants and the many programs of that sort from only a decade ago? These had a huge impact, leveraging efforts with a multifold multiplier, establishing an identity, creating jobs and reducing energy use.



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This projected revenue can and should also be spent on education programs. Pennsylvanians have been told that energy cost is a zero sum game, and that RGGI will only make energy more expensive for us and will deter investment. The reality is that this money can be used to create low income and small business energy efficiency programs, including job training in the coalfield communities, at a time when so many could use this relief. Energy efficiency and renewables programs can be created that will lead to economies of scale and predictability in the near term, which then will attract investment from energy and renewables companies, which will then create more green jobs.

We need to move forward into a progressive energy economy. When I hear so many municipalities and corporations aspiring to a zero carbon and all-electric future, I want for Pennsylvania to not only keep up; I want for Pennsylvania to lead it. We have been world leaders in fossil fuel innovation and production for two centuries. With the foresight and investment that joining RGGI will enable, we can proactively provide energy leadership and be globally competitive in this century as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Mondor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marc Mondor, AIA, LEED Fellow, CEM, USGBC Faculty  
Principal



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