



**Stephen Hoffman**

**From:** Karen Elias <eliaskaren100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 1:46 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** letter in support of RGGI

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Dear Members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I am writing as a member of the Climate Reality Project (the Susquehanna Valley Chapter) to urge you, most strongly, to rule in favor of Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

I am also a mother. My son and his wife live near Sacramento, California, where the nearby wildfires are sending, in his words, "toxic smoke into the city, making our lives pretty miserable." Two nights ago he sent an air-quality map showing areas of "purple air" in his vicinity and asking that we send prayers. It saddens me enormously to know that this is the world my generation is bequeathing to my son, a world where encroaching wildfires make it necessary to sequester indoors for extended periods of time, as he's had to, with the windows sealed and air purifiers running on high as protection against choking smoke.

Recently the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its latest report. The verdict is grim. Human activity is "unequivocally" responsible for the rapid changes our planet is experiencing in the form of sea-level rise, heatwaves, wildfires, melting glaciers, floods and droughts. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General, warned: "[This report] is a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk."

I believe it's past time for us as citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to understand the responsibility we ourselves bear for the climate crisis.

In spite of Pennsylvania's stated goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050, we have become the second largest producer of methane gas, and the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases (both methane and CO2), in the nation.

According to the most recent estimates, over 85% of our state's emissions come from the production and consumption of energy. This means the burning of fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, to produce electricity. And yet, in spite of our commitment to emissions reduction, we continue to subsidize the fossil fuel industry, thereby encouraging the continued dependence on that industry by our state for its economic well being. If we remain on this path, we could -- according to the National Resources Defense Council -- end up with **increased** emissions by 2050.

RGGI will help reduce the carbon dioxide emissions from Pennsylvania's fossil fuel-fired power plants, which will, in turn, significantly reduce our state's contribution to climate change. As an additional benefit, the proceeds from RGGI can be used to increase clean energy, improve energy efficiency, provide support for electric vehicles, and help transition workers out of the fossil fuel industry and into more sustainable jobs.

RGGI has an impressive track record. It will reduce carbon emissions and return money to our state. By joining RGGI, Pennsylvania will be doing its part to create a healthier future, not only in Pennsylvania but also across the globe.

Please vote for the CO2 Budget Trading Program. It will be my way of sending prayers to my son.

Thank you.

(Dr.) Karen Elias

Lock Haven, PA

The Climate Reality Project, Susquehanna Valley Chapter