

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Abha Saini <abha.climatereality.psepa.chap@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 10:09 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: RGGI – PA’s Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Budget Trading Program—PLEASE APPROVE

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Dear Members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I strongly urge you to approve the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) final regulation and to rule in favor of Pennsylvania participating in RGGI, the Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Budget Trading Program.

Pennsylvania’s RGGI program will significantly reduce the carbon dioxide pollution that our state emits from fossil fuel-fired power plants. These power plants’ continuous spewing of this carbon dioxide greenhouse gas into our two fragile, life-sustaining, thin layers of atmosphere, a mere 30 miles high, is causing a dangerous increase in atmospheric temperature that is heating up Earth’s land and water—and changing our climate—right now.

Today's catastrophic bombardment of Southern Louisiana by Hurricane Ida's more than 185 miles per hour wind gusts, is just a small sample of the dramatic increase in the frequency and severity of this type of extreme weather event that we are already experiencing—year after year, season after season—and can expect to worsen, if we do nothing to stop it.

On the opposite weather-extreme, we are witnessing, in real time, an increase in life-threatening summer heat waves and drought; and the massive destruction of land, forests, and property by enormous raging blazes of fire in our Western United States.

The impacts of this accelerating and compounding change in climate will make Earth uninhabitable for you and me—all humans, ecosystems, and future generations, if human-caused greenhouse gas emissions continue to go unchecked.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis* explains how dire this situation is.

One of the largest sources of global CO₂ emissions is from fossil fuel-fired power plants. Pennsylvania has a responsibility to lead our nation's efforts to eliminate this major source of carbon dioxide pollution, given the fact that Pennsylvania remains among the top four fossil fuel extracting states in the nation.

By joining with the 11 other states that are participating in RGGI, Pennsylvania has an opportunity to be a powerful champion of climate change solutions—and to demonstrate how effectively and innovatively the proceeds from the RGGI program can be used to improve energy efficiency, increase clean energy, provide support for electric vehicles, environmental justice, and help transition workers out of the fossil fuel industry and into more sustainable jobs.

Please vote for Pennsylvania’s CO₂ Budget Trading Program, which will be a major critical step towards protecting current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Abha A. Saini

Climate Reality Leadership Corps (2017, Seattle)

Chair

The Climate Reality Project: Philadelphia and Southeastern PA Chapter