

Eco Justice Collaborative
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends



Testimony of the Eco Justice Collaborative of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission August 2021

Dear members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC):

The Eco Justice Collaborative of PYM, acting on our deeply-held concern for climate justice and all of creation, strongly supports the adoption of a carbon market in Pennsylvania and endorses a decision to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's oldest carbon market.

To be true to our historic testimonies for peace, justice and stewardship of our earth, we must immediately address the climate crisis. We understand that a well-managed carbon market can lower greenhouse gas emissions significantly and steadily, reducing air pollution statewide and helping to mitigate climate change.

It can also create thousands of jobs and grow the economy, while reducing the severity of asthma, other respiratory disease, and many other health problems caused by air pollution and climate change. Through the extensive investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy that is built into the program, it will also reduce the energy burden on low and moderate income households.

The income from RGGI's cap and invest structure can support investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, carbon sequestration and other carbon mitigation efforts, and a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries. We strongly support the intention to prioritize investment in environmental justice communities across our state.

Our faith calls us to act. As climate change, structural job loss caused by the pandemic, artificial intelligence and automation, and a public health crisis continue to bear down on Pennsylvania, it is essential that we act now. We strongly urge expeditious action to implement a carbon market in Pennsylvania without delay.

Sincerely,

Patricia Finley
Ruth Darlington

Clerks, Eco Justice Collaborative

Ecological destruction, income inequality and racial injustice cannot be treated as isolated concerns. We may be called to focus on different aspects of the whole, but without awareness of that whole, our work will fall short.