



Stephen Hoffman

From: Paula Kline <kline.paula@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 10:37 PM
To: Irrchelp
Subject: Comments regarding RGGI for the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)

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Dear Esteemed Members of the IRRC,

It is my understanding that this week you will make one of the most important decisions of your lifetime and in the history of Pennsylvania's policy making.

The recent IPCC report has made it painfully clear that we can wait no longer to address the urgency of fossil fuel emissions/pollution. Every one of us is called on to be moral agents in creating clear and effective pathways to reduce carbon and methane pollution as rapidly as possible. Joining RGGI is one such pathway. RGGI has already proven it can be effective in our neighboring states.

[Pennsylvanians' health and well being has already been dramatically harmed by the extraction of fossil fuels.](#) In one study looking at 2018 alone, more than 4,800 Pennsylvanians died prematurely because of air pollution, the most per capita in the nation and third highest in total. [The emissions from our fossil fuels constitute a significant contribution to US emissions as a whole.](#)

We bear a special responsibility, given that we now understand both the current health consequences of uncontrolled emissions and the long term disruption to our climate system. While earlier generations may have had good intentions, we can already see the magnitude of the unintended consequences of their focus on fossil fuels for energy. Not a day passes that we don't hear of a community in our own state and beyond facing flooding, extreme heat, fires of epic proportions, species loss and more due to our GHG emissions. Few, if any, of our Pennsylvanian townships have the resources to manage disasters on this scale.

For the last 20 years I have worked within my own household, my place of work and my faith community to undertake steps to reduce our emissions. Individual actions, given the scale of the problem, will not be enough. We require courageous commitment from you to approve RGGI and provide an effective process to lead us to limiting carbon emissions, as RGGI would do.

I have also worked tirelessly with other Pennsylvanians to develop Climate Action Plans or their equivalent at the township level. All very important. But again, not enough. State level action, regional action is required here.

Your leadership is critical to giving our children, our grandchildren and quite starkly, the other members of the commonwealth of life that rely on a stable climate system, a future here in Pennsylvania. We are all counting on you to approve RGGI.

Sincerely,
Paula Kline
Westtown Township

Local EAC member (I am writing only on my own behalf)

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We refuse to lose. A climate safe future worth fighting for.
[Earthrise](#)