

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: Sandy Field <sandyfna@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 5:19 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Pennsylvania MUST join RGGI to begin reducing CO2 emissions

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29 August, 2021

Dear Members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission,

I am writing to you in strong support of adoption of the CO₂ Budget Trading Program to enter Pennsylvania into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) as a first step towards reducing Pennsylvania's contribution to the greenhouse gas pollution that is the root cause of the climate crisis.

The recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made these important statements:

- Climate change is unequivocally related to human activity
- Heating of the land, ocean, and atmosphere is already occurring
- These changes are already causing costly extreme weather events and other impacts in every inhabited region of the world
- Eastern North America, including Pennsylvania, is very likely to experience increases in average and extreme precipitation resulting in flooding events
- Limiting human-induced global warming requires reductions in CO₂ emissions, as well as sustained reductions in methane

RGGI has already been proven to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions while providing funding for sustainability initiatives in states in the Northeast that have adopted the program. Joining RGGI offers Pennsylvania a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-based electricity generation, which represents about one-third of our total emissions. The other two-thirds mainly come from transportation and industrial burning of fossil fuels. It is clear that in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels for energy and transition to clean renewable energy sources as soon as possible. The CO₂ budget trading program provides a way to make the fossil fuel industry, that has been making money while polluting our air and water for the past 100 years in Pennsylvania, pay the true cost of oil and gas extraction. Pennsylvanians no

longer need to sacrifice our health and communities for the empty promise of economic prosperity offered by this polluting industry, there is a better solution. The CO₂ budget trading program provides the first step toward a vision of a new future for Pennsylvania that provides good, clean energy jobs that won't kill the planet or its people and allows Pennsylvania to return to its wonderful, wild character of green forests and clear-running streams. Pennsylvanians have a constitutional right to clean air and water; this program provides a way to preserve that right.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sandy Field, PhD

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