



## RGGI Testimony

### Introduction.....

In January of 2021 the Armstrong School District Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution opposing Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The School District believes that affordable and reliable sources of electric power generated in Pennsylvania are vital to the operations of the Armstrong School District. Also coal fired electric generating power plants, such as the Keystone Power Plant, which resides in the Armstrong School District are a major economic, employment and tax revenue generator for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, counties and school districts like ours. In our district alone we receive over \$500,000 in real estate taxes from the Keystone Power Plant and a significant amount of Earned Income Tax from the employees of the plant that reside in our district. If this plant were to close it would have a negative impact on the district and the loss in tax revenue would then be passed onto the other tax payers of the district.

### Talking Points:

1. Communities and school districts that would be affected by the implementation of RGGI were told that they would be consulted with and would be able to provide dialogue to the Governor and his consultants on the impact the RGGI could have. To date our district has not been contacted nor provided that opportunity to express our concerns.
2. Pennsylvania has experienced an impressive reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in recent years without joining the RGGI. The EPA's data for Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Pennsylvania shows that carbon dioxide emissions in the state fell 26 percent from 2000 to 2016.
3. The increased energy prices for taxpayers, loss of jobs due to mounting energy costs and second-order effects resulting from higher electricity costs are strong arguments against joining RGGI. Joining RGGI would be an ill -advised decision that would undermine much of the economic and environmental success that state has enjoyed in the last decade.
4. RGGI is ill-advised even if advocates are well-intentioned: the initiative seeks to reduce CO2 emissions and save the climate by placing caps on electricity production. But besides ruining economies, RGGI has very little impact. It hasn't lowered emissions at all since it was enacted in other states [over a decade ago.](#)
5. Coal generation is set to decline under RGGI. The Pennsylvania Coal Alliance says joining RGGI could impact a quarter of the state's coal production by making coal-fired power plants less competitive. The coal industry is a major employer in our county and this would have an adverse effect on those wage earners who reside in our district.

Closing:

Members of the Regulatory Review Commission should remember that a cleaner environment isn't accomplished through government mandates. Pennsylvania should focus on creating an environment for more carbon-emission-reducing innovations. Limiting the supply of energy will only harm the lives of everyday Pennsylvanians.

The net result of Pennsylvania joining RGGI is clear: increases in power prices and the loss of affordable and reliable electricity production due to the closure of coal and some natural gas fired power plants. The closure of those facilities, in turn, will lead to the loss of thousands of good-paying jobs, as well as tax revenue to school districts and communities where those plants are located, and millions of lost tax revenues to the state as a whole.