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August 20, 2021

To: Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

I strongly support Pennsylvania joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) because of the substantial health benefits to our citizens. Pennsylvania's air quality (AQ) is one of the poorest in the nation sometimes ranking only below California according to the American Lung Association State of the Air reports.

My medical practice in Carlisle concentrated on the treatment of lung diseases. Air pollution exacerbates childhood asthma and gasping for air is a terrifying experience for a child having an acute asthma attack. The direct and indirect reduction of nitrous oxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons and other toxins in our air by lowering greenhouse gases will lessen childhood acute asthma and lung disease among our adult population. Recently, these environmental toxins have been linked to neurologic diseases such as Parkinson's disease. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) data shows a 32% increase in mortality from Parkinson's disease in Pennsylvania from 2015 to 2019 –
(www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/parkinsons_disease_mortality/parkinsons_disease.htm)

Air pollution is not always local and a regional partnership with other states in the northeast to reduce toxic emissions will protect the health of our citizens. If you care about our air, Pennsylvania will join the RGGI.

Sincerely



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