

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ddakey@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Irrchelp
Subject: Support CO2 Budget Trading Program

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TO: Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
FROM: Diana G. Dakey, Dalton 18414
DATE: August 27, 2021
SUBJECT: Support CO2 Budget Trading Program

Dear Commissioners,

I strongly urge you to decide in favor of Pennsylvania enacting a CO2 Budget Trading Program. As a major carbon-emitting state, Pennsylvania must take action.

Over the past decades, I have seen accelerating and worrisome changes to weather, vegetation, and insect vectors, where I live in northeast Pennsylvania. These changes are caused by our warming climate, the result of our over use of fossil carbon fuels.

The electric power sector contributes significantly to carbon emissions from coal and gas burning. The CO2 Budget Trading Program is an important step to reducing carbon emissions. It will mark the first time that PA has ever limited CO2 pollution from any source. The electric power sector must lead the way in reducing carbon emissions. Then, other carbon-consuming sectors such as transportation and buildings can move in tandem to decarbonize. By implementing the CO2 Budget Trading Program, PA can lead in clean technologies. Technologies for producing carbon-free power exist and are dropping in cost. The CO2 Budget Trading Program will spur grid modernization among other benefits. Large investors know the tide has changed away from carbon and toward renewables. (1) Furthermore, reducing power plant gas use will also benefit us by reducing methane leaks from upstream fossil gas production and transportation.

Some of the comments you have received thus far talk about potential harm to consumers. I am a consumer. I will be harmed by inaction to reduce carbon emissions. Heat waves will stress the power sector, impacting you and me. Powerful storms are an increasingly regular occurrence where I live, causing power outages.

Proceeds from the program can be used to move Pennsylvania to clean energy and create new jobs to help transition workers out of fossil-fuel industries. The experience of other states that participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) shows an expansion of industries such as wind and solar that exceeds Pennsylvania.

The latest climate assessment issued earlier this month by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a call to action. The DEP 2021 Climate Impacts Report projects Pennsylvania will be 5.9° F warmer by midcentury. Reducing greenhouse gas pollution must be done quickly to stave off the most dire impacts of climate change.

Like most Pennsylvanians, I support action on climate. Most Pennsylvania registered voters think the state should work harder to tackle climate change, according to a poll from Franklin & Marshall College that was released in June.

Some say the CO2 Budget Trading Program is a “tax”. The program is designed as a cap-and-invest scheme, essentially making it more costly to pollute and less costly to avoid carbon pollution. The electric power sector has been allowed to pollute at no cost to the industry. The damage caused by unmitigated carbon emissions is an externality whose costs are shifted to all of us by this industry.

I urge the IRRC to vote to give final approval to finalize regulations to bring a CO2 Budget Trading Program to Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

Diana G. Dakey
208 Braewood Rd.
Dalton, PA 18414

(1) Opinion: Today, it was Exxon’s AGM. Tomorrow, it’s yours.

The climate change votes at the AGMs of ExxonMobil and Chevron mark a tipping point for shareholder concern about climate change. Expect more votes, in more sectors, and soon.

By Mark Nicholls 31 May 2021 (Last Updated 2 Jun 2021)

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