

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: haasesteve@aim.com
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Irrchelp
Subject: letter in support of PA joining the RGGI

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August 27, 2021

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

Re: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Dear Review Commission,

I write this in strong support that Pennsylvania joins its 11 neighboring states (from Maine to Virginia) in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. It is the right thing to do for many reasons including improved health and environmental justice for our commonwealth and regional citizens, and increasing our efforts to transition to carbon neutral energy sources, which is an imperative if we are to limit the effects of climate change that we are seeing more and more instances of from flooding to wildfires. It is clear from the data on air quality across the nations that Pennsylvania needs to do better. We often rank just below California in terms of air quality according to many metrics, including those provided by the American Lung Association.

Air quality is a classic example of the “tragedy of the commons”—the negative impacts on a common resource that all of us need (clean air to breathe) are often created by a small group of actors (e.g., large power plants that emit CO2 and other harmful pollutants).

We often hear objections to environmental initiatives such as “it costs too much, or it will cause jobs to be lost”. The facts speak otherwise. Since being launched, the RGGI has not only improved public health, but it has also saved consumers on their energy bills and has in fact created good paying jobs. A recent report from the RGGI indicates that the investments of proceeds from the program have created five times the benefits in terms of energy savings to consumers. There are very likely to be savings from reduction in health care costs and lost productivity from people missing work from the negative impacts of air pollution such as the high asthma rates we see in our state, especially in our children (roughly the 10th highest in our nation).

It is clear to this citizen of PA that the benefits of joining the RGGI outweigh the costs. Aside from the economics, as I opened my comments, it is clearly the right thing to do for the residents of our commonwealth and neighboring states.

Sincerely,

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