

INDIANA COUNTY Commissioners

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Pennsylvania now has the terrible distinction of having the highest unemployment claim rate in the nation. The world economy, and certainly Pennsylvania's economy, has been dramatically transformed with COVID-19. If governor Wolf insists on his executive order, that he enacted in October 2019 to push Pennsylvania into RGGI, he will hurt Indiana County even more. The last thing we need to burden our citizens with is nearly \$300 million annual tax on carbon – a tax which will be paid by electricity consumers and employers alike.

Indiana County, and neighboring Armstrong County, with whom we share a regional natural resource economy have three coal, and one coal refuse electric generating unit operations. In which they produce \$1.3 billion in total economic impact, supporting 1,225 jobs with \$59 million in employee compensation annually. These jobs are blue collar, family sustaining, union wage jobs - jobs that pay! Additionally, thousands of jobs including Boilermakers Local 154, and IBEW Local 159, are sustained annually during routine facility maintenance and through the production of the fuels necessary to generate the electricity. The potential closure of these facilities would mean tremendous harm to our regional economy. This would cause not only the loss of family sustaining jobs, but a significant loss of local tax revenues to local municipalities to maintain operating budgets and potential closing of school districts, along with many other economic hardships too numerous to list the devastating impacts. The domino effect of RGGI alone is unthinkable, but the lack of common sense on top of COVID-19 is inconceivable to moving us forward.

Here is just one article of facts found in the recent publication by the CO2 Coalition titled "Pennsylvania's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Relies on Faulty Data," Dr Patrick J. Michaels, Senior Fellow for the CO2 Coalition and Competitive Enterprise Institute found "all but one of 102 computer models used in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Climate Action Plan "failed dramatically" in representing how the climate behaved in the past. He suggested that it would have been preferable for the state to have used the one model that more accurately reflected past climatic conditions than to have averaged the result of all 102 irrespective of their accuracy. In addition, the Pennsylvania analysis uses a CO2-emmission model that assumes an unrealistic increase in the use of coal that exceeds some estimates of the quantity of recoverable coal reserves. Correcting for the state's reliance on flawed analyses reduces the predicted warming by 2050 to less than two degrees Fahrenheit from the state's projection of 5.4 degrees. The Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan report, which serves as the basis for Governor Wolf's RGGI proposal, needs to be dramatically revised, and should no

longer be used as the basis for any policy proposals in its present form, according to Dr. Michaels.”

Why shouldn't the employees of the generating plants have a say in their outcomes of their lives?
Why don't we as citizens of the commonwealth have a say in the outcomes of our livelihoods?
Why are we not allowed to control our government through the legislators that we voted upon to represent us?

So, Governor Wolf, what gives you the right to decide to throw not only these hardworking citizens out on the street that work in the power industry, or any other person trying to earn a living? After this what industry will be next to be targeted because of something that someone does not like?

And lastly, the enacting of the carbon tax would take effect in 2022, Governor Wolf will be leaving office which the next government will be left to manage.

We are urging Governor Wolf to rescind the executive order and work collectively with the General Assembly and the communities who rely on the economic benefits of electric generation before considering membership in RGGI and the implementation of a carbon tax on emissions.