



RGGI / Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
 Independent Regulatory Review Commission
 Written Testimony of Adam J. Trott AIA dated September 1, 2021

I am offering this testimony in support of RGGI implementation across the Commonwealth of PA. I am the sole proprietor of a small architectural studio in Erie, PA – AJT Architect established in 2011 – where I employ 3 full-time staff. I also currently hold positions in the following organizations:

American Institute of Architects PA	President Elect and Government Affairs Chair
Bike Erie	President
Connect Urban Erie	President
ERIWE (Undesigning the redline in Erie)	Steering Committee Member
Kiwanis Club of Erie	Past President and Current Board of Directors Member

My professional work intertwines with my community advocacy and service positions. I am strongly supporting PA's endeavor to join RGGI because I see first-hand the consequences on the street from both good and bad state policies and programs while also seeing how RGGI can be a major contributor to help remedy the bad. I see neighborhoods polluted and lacerated by dirty industries and bad transportation policies. I see economically depressed neighborhoods rendered as such in large part by bad public education funding formulas, unnecessary obstacles to minority entrepreneurship, and redlining.

RGGI can help by providing the opportunity for a more equitable and healthy environment for all Pennsylvanians where we live, work, worship and recreate. Proper implementation of RGGI will provide both the supportive funding for growing advanced green manufacturing yielding family sustaining jobs throughout the state, while also improving overall public health by incentivizing the removal of environmental threats to our buildings and neighborhoods. I believe that this opportunity can only be realized by combining well-crafted implementation of regulations along with RGGI revenue directives that channel the revenue to address the needs of Pennsylvania's residents, including the underserved.

Proper RGGI regulations can structure a smooth and strategic transition where we move the state away from subsidizing longtime hazardous and polluting sources of heat and energy and instead toward the safer sources. This would make the components of our built environment safer and healthier. Sustainable and RGGI compliant power generation sources include wind, solar, water movement and cogeneration, which can all be done in PA. In Erie, we just celebrated the closing of a major coal coking plant, called Erie Coke, on our lakefront that had been operating since 1833 providing coked coal for heating and to industries that eventually included coke fueled power plants while polluting the east side of our city. That will occur no more, and the site clean-up is ongoing with the net cost to taxpayers yet to be determined. RGGI revenue can help remedy these types of sites as well as transition coal and fossil fuel jobs to safer, green jobs. Erie established the Erie County Community College to start Fall 2021 that can provide agency for such job transitioning. The pieces are aligning here in Erie and throughout the state to support RGGI. I hope Pennsylvania can seize this opportunity while we still have a chance to lead in this new movement.

Very truly yours, Adam J. Trott AIA, NCARB