

Testimony for CO2 Budget Trading Program Regulation – 12/8/20

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Thank you for the opportunity to present public comment today to the Environmental Quality Board in support of the proposed rulemaking called the CO2 Budget Trading Program, which empowers Pennsylvania to join RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. My name is Leanne Krueger and I serve as the State Representative for the 161st Legislative District in Delaware County. I have been in office for five years and for all five of those years, I have served as a member of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. I submit these comments as a Legislator and as a Pennsylvania citizen who is very concerned about the impacts of climate change on my family, my community and our Commonwealth.

Climate change is already impacting Pennsylvania. We have experienced record-breaking extreme storms, serious flooding, and our agriculture and winter tourism industries have already been impacted. The need for climate action is urgent. Yet in my five years in the Legislature, I have seen no bills move forward to address this serious issue. Instead, I have seen efforts by the Majority party to block all climate-related bills, including recent aggressive and unconstitutional efforts to derail RGGI. The Majority Committee Chairman who gets to decide which environmental bills advance out of Committee has repeatedly denied that climate change even exists.

For this reason, it is incumbent on the Governor and the EQB to act. Pennsylvania's effort to join RGGI is the biggest positive climate action we have seen in decades. RGGI is a climate solution that has already worked in ten other states, where it has created new jobs, reduced electricity prices, and generated billions of dollars of revenue for investment in clean energy projects. RGGI also gives us an opportunity to direct crucial investment to the rural communities most impacted by job loss due to the energy transition from coal to natural gas, and the Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income populations disproportionately burdened by air pollution and climate change. Those communities must be at the top of the list when the proceeds generated by RGGI are appropriated.

You have the power and authority to move forward with this rulemaking. The Pennsylvania legislature gives clear authority to the governor through the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act to move forward with an administrative rulemaking that caps pollution from the power sector. That is the rulemaking that appears before you today. In the absence of leadership from

the Legislature on this issue, I implore you to move quickly and deliberately on this rule because our future and the future of our children depends on your action.

Thank you.