

To Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are writing to voice our support for Pennsylvania to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and to voice opposition for legislative efforts to keep the Commonwealth from participating in this initiative, such as Senate Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution 1, House Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution 1, Senate Bill 119, and House Bill 637.

With each day that passes, climate change becomes a more urgent threat to our Commonwealth. [Local impacts of the climate crisis](#) in Pennsylvania include heat waves, [worsening air quality](#) that harms public health, more insect-borne diseases, more intense storms and flash flooding, and agricultural losses.

As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to reduce our emissions, and participating in RGGI will put us on the right path. Over the past twelve years, this bipartisan program has had remarkable success for the participating Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

Since 2008:

- CO₂ emissions in from RGGI states have [fallen by 47%, outpacing the rest of the country by 90%](#);
- Reductions in other air pollutants, including SO₂ and NO_x, that can lead to premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses [have resulted in an additional \\$5.7 billion in health and productivity benefits](#);
- [Electricity prices in RGGI states have fallen by 5.7%](#), while prices have increased in the rest of the country by 8.6%;
- The [combined economies of the RGGI states have grown by 47%](#), during the first ten years of the program, outpacing growth in the rest of the country by 31%.

If Pennsylvania participates in the program, it is projected to reduce the Commonwealth's carbon emissions by up to [227 million tons](#) over its first decade in the program -- that's equivalent to taking 44 million cars off the road. Moreover, participating in RGGI will not only cut carbon pollution, but also reduce nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide pollution, yielding significant health benefits for Pennsylvanians. DEP projects that by linking with RGGI, Pennsylvania will [avoid hundreds of premature deaths and 30,000 hospital visits](#) for respiratory illnesses such as asthma by 2030.

Sadly, while Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly voiced support for participating in RGGI during the required regulatory comment period and during the past 2-year regulatory process in general, legislative efforts to undermine the Commonwealth's ability to participate in this successful

program continue to be put forth in the General Assembly. These efforts are counter to the urgent need to reduce climate pollution, the overwhelming public support shown for participating in RGGI, and the decisions of the regulatory experts and members of IRRC who've given this proposal the greenlight to proceed.

We call on you to oppose any efforts to prevent Pennsylvania from taking steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change and participate in RGGI, particularly SCR11, HCR11, Senate Bill 119 and House Bill 637.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**PennEnvironment
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments
PennFuture
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Clean Air Council
Clean Water Action
Foundation for PA Watersheds
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
League of Women Voters Pennsylvania
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed
Conservancy
Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Benedictines for Peace
Breathe Project
Brodhead Creek Heritage Center
Bucks County Audubon Society
Chestnut Hill United Church
Climate Action Lower Merion
Climate Action Narbs & Nerbs
Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna
Valley PA Chapter
Commutitopia
Countryside Conservancy
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine
Reclamation**

**Moms Clean Air Force, Pennsylvania
Chapter
NRDC
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania
POWER Interfaith
Sierra Club Pennsylvania
Solar United Neighbors of Pennsylvania
Green Valleys Watershed Association
Guardians of the Brandywine
H-CAN Climate Action
Lancaster Against Pipelines
Mountain Watershed Association
Phoenixville Green Team
Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh
REIV2G network
Riverwise
St. Paul's Working for Justice ministry
Sunrise Pittsburgh
Swarthmore EAC
The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House
The Sustainable Business Network of
Philadelphia**

**The Unitarian Congregation of West
Chester Social Justice Committee**

The Way Forward

Women's Medical Fund

Olivia Bennett, Allegheny County
Councilwoman District 13

Anita Prizio, Council Member, Allegheny
County

R. Michael Prendergast, Councilman,
Bellefonte Borough

Joanne Tosti-Vasey Ph.D., President,
Bellefonte Borough Council

John Hranitz, Ph.D., Professor Biological and
Allied Health Services, Bloomsburg
University

Joel Hicks, Councilman, Borough of Carlisle

Tim Scott, Mayor, Borough of Carlisle

Ronald Filippelli, Mayor, Borough of State
College

Robert Pasquantonio, Councilmember,
Brentwood Borough Council

Robert Dostal, Emeritus Professor of
Philosophy, Bryn Mawr College

Sean M. Shultz, Deputy Mayor, Carlisle
Borough

Elizabeth Lowenthal, MD, Pediatrician &
Epidemiologist, Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia

Deborah Gentile, MD, Medical Director,
Community Partners in Asthma Care

Dick Poot, Vice Chair, Coopersburg Borough
Council

Kevin Madden, Councilman, Delaware
County Council

Dr. Monica Taylor, Vice Chair, Delaware
County Council

Dr. Hans Pfister, Prof. of Physics and the
George W. Pedlow Chair in Pedagogy,
Dickinson College

Neil Leary, Professor, Dickinson College

**Working for Justice Ministry, St. Paul's
United Methodist Church**

Wyncote Audubon Society

Mary Carol Kennedy, President, East
Pittsburgh Borough Council

Rev. Kenneth Feinour Jr, Pastor, Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America

Jove Graham, Ph.D, Associate Professor,
Geisinger

Karen Pooley, Director of Environmental
Policy Design program, Lehigh University

Richard Niesenbaum Ph.D., Professor and
Director of Sustainability Studies,
Muhlenberg College

Tara Zrinski, Councilwoman, Northampton
County

John Christman, Professor of Philosophy,
Political Science and Women's Studies,
Penn State University

Hannah Ryan, Nurse Practitioner,
PennMedicine

Erika Strassburger, Council Member,
Pittsburgh City Council

Bobby Wilson, Councilman, Pittsburgh City
Council

Sue X. Ming M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Rutgers
NJ Medical School

Jose Eduardo Duenas, Manager of School
Programs, Schuylkill Center for
Environmental Education

Richard Mease, President, Selinsgrove Area
Recreation, Inc.

Brittany Reno, Council President, Sharpsburg
Borough

Jim Lee, Ward 3 Commissioner, Springfield
Township

Dara & Mark Bortman, Sustainable Solar
Systems

Fred Kraybill, Manager, Thomas Blvd Group

Dr. Cathy Chamblee, Part-Time Instructor,
University of Pennsylvania School of Arts
and Sciences

Josef P. Werne, Professor and Chair,
Department of Geology & Environmental
Science, University of Pittsburgh

Ward Allebach, Adjunct Professor in
Environmental Studies, University of
Pittsburgh

Avinash Linganna, MD, UPMC Heart and
Vascular Institute

Rev. Arthur Purcaro OSA, Co-Chair of the
Sustainability Leadership Council,
Villanova University

Scott Van Bramer, Professor of Chemistry,
Widener University