



July 6, 2020

Dear Members of the PA House of Representatives:

RE: House Bill 2025

On behalf of our thousands of statewide members and supporters, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) **urges you to OPPOSE House Bill 2025** (P.N. 3907 - Rep. Struzzi) known as the "Pennsylvania Carbon Dioxide Cap and Trade Authorization Act." HB 2025 is a dangerous bill that seeks to remove the power of the Department of Environmental Protection to enact a carbon reduction program similar to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

**Supporting clean energy & RGGI means more jobs for Pennsylvania.**

Last year, more of our country's [electricity came from renewable sources](#) like wind and solar than did from coal, and that trend is expected to continue. It's not surprising that the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the two [fastest growing job categories](#) in the nation over the next ten years will be solar photovoltaic installers and wind turbine service technicians.

Coal, by comparison, is in sharp decline. Despite President Trump's aggressive moves to gut environmental protections, the Energy Information Administration reports coal-fired electricity generation has fallen almost 20 percent during his administration alone. Pennsylvania's five remaining conventional plants are all on the verge of retirement, and no new ones will replace them. Governor Wolf's RGGI program has the potential to help workers and communities impacted by these inevitable closures.

Rather than backsliding, it is time for Pennsylvania to invest in the future. Instead of letting polluters dump millions of tons of waste in our air for free, the Governor's cap-and-invest program will require the purchase of allowances for each ton of carbon pollution. The fees from the auction of these allowances can be invested in projects to save energy, build more clean generation, and lower air pollution across the state. All of those projects have one thing in common—they will need Pennsylvania workers to make them happen.

Building a clean energy economy is also necessary if Pennsylvania is going to retain its status as a leader in energy generation. Every year we see clean and renewable energy sources become [more cost-effective](#) and nearby states like New Jersey, New York, and even Massachusetts, are building thriving industries. While they see growth, fossil fuel companies in Pennsylvania are struggling to compete.

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RGGI also makes sense for consumers. Other RGGI states have seen electricity bills decline almost 6 percent and similar investments can help lower electricity prices for Pennsylvania families too. An independent statewide evaluator working for the PA Public Utility Commission recently [evaluated the state of energy efficiency in Pennsylvania](#) and found that there are literally billions of dollars of potential investments available that would return net financial benefits to consumers in Pennsylvania.

**Supporting RGGI is the right thing to do.**

Not only does Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to enact a cap-and-invest program for carbon pollution, Article I § 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution requires that our government conserve and maintain our public natural resources. Rather than obstructing environmental protections, the Legislature has a unique opportunity to work with Governor Wolf and make the program more efficient and effective.

The climate crisis is worsening by the day, and Pennsylvanians are still in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic that attacks the respiratory system and is made exponentially worse by poor air quality and pollution. Now is precisely the wrong time to block attempts to improve our air quality and lessen our pollution. **For these reasons, we ask again that you OPPOSE House Bill 2025.**

As we look to the future -- our future economic growth, our future job creation, our future energy infrastructure, and the world we leave behind for future generations -- we must embrace the transformation already underway. RGGI is an important tool in our toolbox to ensure a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow.

For more information, and should you have any questions, please use us as a resource. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,

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