



November 13, 2020

Dear Members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board:

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) proposed CO₂ Budget Trading Program, a regulation compatible with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). It has been a pleasure to meet with your group on several occasions to discuss the RGGI framework and I appreciate your thoughtful feedback.

In August, Governor Wolf's Policy Office and I received your letter containing detailed equity and environmental justice recommendations for RGGI. Your recommendations were reviewed and will be referenced throughout the development and implementation of RGGI in Pennsylvania.

As this initiative proceeds, the Department is committed to gathering input from the public and will continue to engage in meaningful dialogue with underrepresented communities for the design of the RGGI program. Specifically, the Department will:

- Implement equity principles that will guide RGGI and serve as a foundation for other departmental programs. The Office of Environmental Justice has started to engage environmental justice (EJ) communities in the development of RGGI equity principles;
- Identify formal areas of participation by EJ communities in providing feedback on how the Department should direct an identified portion of RGGI auction proceeds to support communities demonstrated as overburdened (or disproportionately impacted by air pollution) as evidenced by environmental health and demographic data;
- Monitor, evaluate and address air quality impacts of the rulemaking within EJ communities as much as practicable if and/or when the regulation is implemented;
- Recommend that specific EJ considerations be incorporated into RGGI states' model rule during the upcoming program review in 2021.

I appreciate the careful consideration you have given to Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI and I will continue to rely on your experience as board members and environmental justice advocates to advise the Department on such issues.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Allison Acevedo, Director for Office of Environmental Justice, by e-mail at alacevedo@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick McDonnell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Patrick McDonnell
Secretary