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AJT  
architect



Daphne More, AIA LLC



DIGSAU

July 9th, 2020

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board:

We are a diverse group of businesses, business associations, and nonprofits who recognize the economic and social value of energy efficiency and renewable energy investment. Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy can reduce Pennsylvanians' energy costs, strengthen business investment, and create local jobs, all while reducing carbon and air pollution. For these reasons, we urge you to advance a proposed carbon trading budget program that enables the investment of proceeds into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

Now more than ever, the state needs investment in a new clean energy economy. The clean energy industry lost more than 21,000 jobs in Pennsylvania in March and April alone. Short-term stimulus is needed to recover these jobs sooner than RGGI proceeds will become available, but an ongoing commitment to investment in energy efficiency and clean energy will allow these industries to be the jobs engine of Pennsylvania's economic recovery. The COVID-19 crisis has also demonstrated the importance of investing in resiliency so that communities may continue to function and maintain essential services like energy in times of widespread disruption.



At the same time, Pennsylvania and the nation are in the midst of a moment of reckoning for the significant racial disparities that persist in our society. While investments in a clean energy economy alone cannot resolve these disparities, inclusive, strategic investments can help reduce the disproportionately higher energy burden and energy-related pollution levels in communities of color.

As directed by Executive Order 2019-07, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is currently developing a carbon budget trading program that will allow Pennsylvania to join RGGI, a bipartisan multi-state effort to reduce carbon pollution and invest in stronger, cleaner state economies. The program will require qualifying power plants to purchase allowances through auctions in order to emit carbon. Proceeds generated from these auctions are available to fund initiatives that save consumers money, deploy clean energy, and improve air quality. For example, in recent years, RGGI states have invested more than 72% of their proceeds into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. These investments have generated over \$4 billion in net economic benefits in the form of new jobs, customer utility bill savings, and private investment.

In Pennsylvania, the value of RGGI proceeds could reach \$300 million or more annually. This represents a significant resource to deploy toward distributed clean energy, launch new and bolster existing energy-saving programs, and strengthen the resilience of our power grid. Since renewable energy and energy efficiency investments accounted for more than 90,000 jobs across the state in 2019, this additional investment stands to strengthen our economy and create more local jobs.



For these reasons, we encourage you to prioritize the following objectives for the investment of RGGI proceeds. Specifically, RGGI proceeds should be used to:

- 1) Fund services and incentives to help Pennsylvanians reduce their energy use and lower costs for fuels not already served by Pennsylvania's Act 129 programs, including fuel oil, propane, and wood; and to switch from those fuels to high-efficiency electric heating and cooling.
- 2) Implement programs that encourage market segments facing unique barriers and requiring focused support, such as low-income households, communities of color, small businesses, nonprofits, and certain industrial segments, to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- 3) Drive investment in distributed renewable energy through programs that support low-income community solar, microgrids that are powered by renewable energy and energy storage, and innovative grid-storage solutions.
- 4) Support combined heat and power units that help manufacturers, hospitals, campuses, and other energy-intensive facilities reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and reduce energy costs.
- 5) Offer financing, grants, and low- and no-interest loans to support the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency for all Pennsylvania consumers and businesses.
- 6) Establish a new clean energy economic development office to attract new clean energy manufacturing and provide workforce training programs across the state, especially in those areas most impacted by the changing economics of energy.

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In closing, we stand ready to work with you to develop an effective policy for the Commonwealth. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you or to provide additional information on the benefits that RGGI could provide to the state.

Sincerely,

2G Energy Inc	HOK
7group	ICF
AIA Pennsylvania	Inch and Meter, PC
AJT Architect	Integrated CHP Systems Corp.
Alturus	Karbon Architects
BAU Architecture, LLC	Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
CCI, Inc	Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.
Ceres	Macht Architecture
Combined Heat and Power Alliance	MaGrann Associates
CHP-Funder.com	Moshier Studio
Compton Insights	Oriden
Cree Lighting	Pashek + MTR
Daphne More AIA LLC	Performance Systems Development
DCK Power Solutions	Practical Energy Solutions
DIGSAU	Recurve
DMI Companies	RM Green Environmental Services, LLC
DNV GL Energy Services USA Inc	Schaedler YescO Distribution, Inc.
E2	Sealed
eco(n)law LLC	Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning
Energy Opportunities, Inc.	Contractors' National Association of
Envinity, Inc	Pennsylvania
Epic Metals	SMP Architects
eSai LLC	Solar Turbines Inc.
evolve LLC	Sterling Energy Group, LLC
Facility Solutions Group	Sustainable Business Network of Greater
Franklin Energy	Philadelphia
Green Building United	Sustainable Pittsburgh
Green Energy Economics Group, Inc.	Turbine Inlet Cooling Association
Green Stone Energy	Uplight
GreenBeams	Verde Architecture Consulting
Heat is Power Association	Warren Energy Engineering
Henry F. Teichmann Inc.	Willdan

Cc:

Sam Robinson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Wolf  
Hayley Book, Senior Advisor on Energy and Climate, PA DEP