

United Mine Workers of America

District 2



Pennsylvania
Maryland
New York
USA
Nova Scotia
New Brunswick
Canada

CHUCK KNISELL
INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2
VICE PRESIDENT

135 WAYLAND SMITH DRIVE
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February 4, 2020

JAMIE RUDWALL
INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2
REPRESENTATIVE

5 MICHIGAN AVENUE
ILION, NY 13357
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315-894-8160 (FAX)

Dear Chairman Daryl Metcalfe:

I am writing on behalf of the 18,000 active and retired members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in Pennsylvania.

CASEY MULLOOLY
INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2
REPRESENTATIVE

51 ELEVENTH STREET
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We understand that discussions have been occurring about Pennsylvania joining the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The history of the RGGI process shows that coal generation quickly disappears in states that have adopted the RGGI allowance auction program. This is because natural gas plants pay only one-half the fee paid by coal per Megawatt-hour of generation while nuclear and renewables pay nothing.

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Neither the UMWA nor many other major labor unions in the Commonwealth have been consulted about the pros and cons of joining RGGI. Pennsylvania is a major power exporter, due largely to its competitive electric prices. A recent study by Wharton suggested that joining RGGI could "turbocharge" the retirement of coal plants in the Commonwealth.

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Pennsylvania enjoys a diverse array of energy resources. Policies that could eliminate use of our coal resources would have profound adverse impacts on the workers and communities subject to mine and plant closures. Local tax bases would suffer as well, with declining tax bases to support schools and other essential public services such as fire and police.

SUB-DISTRICT 26

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INTER. AUDITOR/TELLER
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The UMWA strongly recommends that you convene a stakeholder process, through DEP or another appropriate agency, to assess the economic and environmental aspects of any decision to join the NE RGGI agreement. Legislative approval also must be sought for any such decision.

Thank you on behalf of the hardworking coal miners and families in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Chuck Knisell
UMWA International District 2 Vice President, Uniontown, PA