



February 5, 2020

Attention: Committee of ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
Subject: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and HB 2025

Good morning Chairman's Metcalfe and Vitali, Representatives and members of the committee and staff. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and express my concerns of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

My name is Paul Cameron, I am the Business Manager of IBEW Local 459 in Johnstown, PA and I am here on behalf of the 1700 members of Local 459.

Local 459 has been representing the union members who perform operation and maintenance work in the utility industry of Western Pennsylvania since 1934. Our members perform the work of building and maintaining electric transmission lines and distribution systems. We operate and maintain hydro, natural gas and coal refuse generating stations as well as the three (3) largest coal electric generating stations in the state. This is why I am here today. To talk about:

- Homer City Generating Station
- Conemaugh Generating Station
- Seward Generating Station
- Shawville Generating Station
- Keystone Generating Station, (where I hold the job classification of certified welder and have been employed for 30 years.)

The generating stations that I have mentioned have evolved immensely since their initial construction. They are constantly changing by adding new equipment, updating operating procedures, and finding better ways to run a cleaner, more efficient and safer plant. Proof of this is the 40% drop in per capita emissions from 2005 to 2017 of our Pennsylvania power plants. This is the same reduction as the RGGI states*, which makes me wonder if the RGGI program actually is responsible for reduced emissions or was it just the evolution of the industry?

When we talk about preserving or protecting Pennsylvania's natural resources, we must be mindful of the most important resources that Pennsylvania has: Its workforce. The wage and benefit packages provided to the workers that are negotiated between union's and the companies that operate the plants set the standard in the area for wages, benefits, pensions, and retirement savings plans while providing safe working conditions and job security. These Generating Stations have been the core for a steady economy in our area for generation.

Residing in Indiana county, I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to raise and provide for my family in a community that has been fortunate not to have experienced the adverse effects of a community in decline. I credit that to the power generating industry that has provided multiple generations with family sustaining jobs. These jobs support some of the best public-school districts in Pennsylvania where the communities are moving forward. Being a part of these communities and having a secure job, is what the middle-class workforce dreams of. Those of us in the coal electric generating industry are proof that it does exist. Pennsylvania workers cannot afford to lose these family sustaining jobs. Which is what happens when a state joins RGGI.

Please keep in mind, it is always working people who have kept the economy going. Preserving these family sustaining jobs for the working people of Pennsylvania is my number one priority and I ask that you please make it yours.

In closing I would like to mention,

- When the cost of the power generator increases, consumers pay more.
- If Pennsylvania loses its status as a top exporter of electric power: The workforce and communities will suffer most.
- I request that all House Members back Local 459 and our 1700 members who feel that RGGI presents a dangerous threat to our livelihoods, our communities and our economic security. We ask you to support House Bill 2025. We ask that you oppose initiatives that would tax Pennsylvania electric generation.
- I respectfully ask Governor Wolf not to enter into the multi-state RGGI that will result in exporting jobs (and for the first time) PA becoming an importer of electric power.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul L. Cameron
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
I.B.E.W. Local 459

*Study by the Caesar Rodney Institute