

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 2:12:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

Comments on Docket #2026-R-A-0003 - CO2 Budget Trading Program

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Organization: CMI Solar and Electric Inc and the Delaware Solar Energy Coalition

Comments:

RGGI Docket # 2026-R-A-0003 Secretary Patterson, I'm Dale Davis from CMI Solar and Electric, a 28-year-old Delaware small business. Removing Delaware from RGGI would have a negative impact on the State of Delaware and on the 17 people and their families that make up CMI. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is one of the most important tools Delaware has to strengthen its economy, lower energy costs, and invest directly in its communities. Companies like CMI directly benefit from RGGI funded demand for residential, farm, small commercial solar, and energy efficiency projects. That translates into local jobs for electricians, engineers, and sales staff, as well as sustained business activity in Delaware's growing clean energy sector. Power plants decide to either meet pollution standards, or if it is less expensive to purchase RGGI credits. RGGI works by returning those funds back to Delaware. RGGI is not a theoretical program—it is a proven revenue generator for Delaware, bringing tens of millions of dollars back into our state every year and reinvesting those funds directly into our economy through Energize Delaware and DNREC. These are not abstract benefits; they are targeted investments with measurable returns. RGGI funds are helping Delaware businesses upgrade equipment and reduce operating costs, improving competitiveness and supporting local jobs. For farmers, RGGI funding supports energy efficiency upgrades and solar installations that reduce operating costs for poultry houses, irrigation systems, and small to large-scale agricultural operations. In a state where agriculture is one of our largest industries, these savings are critical at a time when margins are tight, and energy costs are volatile. RGGI directly strengthens farm viability and keeps family operations competitive. RGGI is reaching houses of worship and local nonprofits, allowing organizations to install solar panels and improve energy systems, freeing up resources for food assistance, housing support, and community services. Just last week RGGI funds through Energize Delaware's Non-Profit Solar Grant Program enabled the installation of a large solar array on the Food Bank in Milford, reducing electrical consumption by 60%. RGGI is helping Delaware households, including low- and moderate-income families, lower their electric bills through weatherization, efficient appliances, and clean energy solutions. This is economic policy that works from the ground up—reducing costs, creating jobs, and keeping energy dollars circulating within Delaware. The impact is not abstract – it is measurable in lower bills, improved infrastructure, and local job creation in construction, contracting and energy services. But just as important is the fiscal reality of withdrawal. If Delaware exits RGGI, we don't eliminate costs—we forfeit \$30-\$40 million in annual revenues that are currently funding these programs. That means no energy upgrades for farms, no grants for small businesses, higher long-

term costs for constituents, and lost economic activity across multiple sectors. In effect, withdrawal would be a self-imposed disinvestment in Delaware's own economy. Delaware cannot afford to walk away from 100's of millions of dollars that are already working here at home. RGGI allows us to turn an environmental obligation into an economic opportunity—leveraging regional policy to deliver local benefits. If we are focused on fiscal responsibility, economic growth, and constituent impact, the conclusion is clear: RGGI is not just good environmental policy, it is sound economic policy for Delaware. Thank you for your leadership and consideration. Dale Davis President