



# In RGGI fight escalation, GOP blocks Wolf's nominations to utility regulator

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State Senate Republicans say they will block Gov. Tom Wolf's appointments to Pennsylvania's utility regulator unless he stops his effort to have the state join a regional cap-and-trade program targeting power plant emissions.

It's the latest escalation of their fight against the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which they say will hurt coal communities.

Commission hostage over an unrelated policy decision.

The PUC has been short a member since last April, when Andrew Place resigned after serving one five-year term.

In August, Wolf nominated Hayley Book, a Department of Environmental Protection climate adviser who is leading the rulemaking that would have the state join RGGI. He nominated her again at the start of the 2021-22 legislative session.

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- [RGGI, behind the rhetoric: What we know about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative < https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2020/09/14/rggi-behind-the-rhetoric-what-we-know-about-the-regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative/>](https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2020/09/14/rggi-behind-the-rhetoric-what-we-know-about-the-regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative/)

On Wednesday, about a month before the deadline to confirm the nomination, all 27 Republican members of the state Senate, plus one Independent, [wrote < https://www.pasenategop.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PUC-letter-042121.pdf >](https://www.pasenategop.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PUC-letter-042121.pdf) Wolf saying they would block all nominations to the PUC unless he pulls his decision to join RGGI.

“For months, the General Assembly has been expressing concern regarding your excessive use of executive orders and the rulemaking process to achieve substantial policy changes rather than vetting them through the legislative process set forth in the Constitution,” the lawmakers wrote, adding the decision to join RGGI was one of the most “brazen” actions.