

# would keep Pennsylvania out of RGGI

## Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative aims to lower carbon emissions through cap-and-trade program

Rachel McDevitt 

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This story has been updated with comments from the legislature.

Gov. Tom Wolf is rejecting a measure that would require the legislature's approval to join a regional effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Wolf vetoed House Bill 2025 Thursday. In a [statement](https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200924-TWW-HB-2025-Veto-Message.pdf), <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200924-TWW-HB-2025-Veto-Message.pdf> he called the bill "extremely harmful to public health and welfare." He said letting it

The bill would have essentially stopped Pennsylvania’s entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cap-and-trade program among 10 northeastern states that targets carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector.

Lawmakers claimed it was really about who has the power to make the decision to join the program, not on whether Pennsylvania should.

“It is unfortunate that the governor is once again standing in the way of the people’s voice exercising a check on his continued attempts to turn the Governor’s office into a one-person legislature,” House GOP spokesman Jason Gottesman said in a statement Thursday.

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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/>>

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), who chairs the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said he is dismayed that Wolf would “propose to go forward with an agreement clearly detrimental to Pennsylvania’s interests.”