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My name is Fred Kraybill and I live in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh. I have long been concerned even freaked out by the threat of climate change. Now in 2023 we continue to see record breaking extreme weather events. As just one example we had record breaking forest fires in Canada in June that created air quality so bad in the Northeast of the US that a NY Yankees baseball game was postponed. Then we saw the Maui wildfires. Then several hurricanes that turned into monsters due to extremely warm ocean waters.

Scientists have long told us that dumping CO2 into the atmosphere without any restraints would lead to a climate crisis. To those that still wonder if the planet is warming, I say if the glaciers could talk (at least those that are left) they would say with a resounding answer "Yes! the planet is warming". It's a dangerous warming leading to more extreme dangerous weather events and other problems like sea level rise and the acidification of oceans.

Whether we will react in time to keep the planet safe for humans is still an open question but to my climate activist friends I would say do not give up or throw in the towel because reductions in emissions today will make tomorrow not as bad as it could be and those who say it's too late will only make it too late by giving up. We need to work for real climate action and giving up is not an option.

I work with the Citizens Climate Lobby and we meet with all legislators to relay our concern about the climate crisis. We meet with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. We treat them in a respectful manner trying to open a dialogue to make progress on climate.

In recent years we are starting to see some fantastic progress on climate action. The Inflation Reduction Act which was signed by Joe Biden is a great example of that. Recent estimates of the value of this bill state that the IRA will be worth about 3 times the investment value of the bill's original estimate. As climate activists when we see a politician accomplish something great on climate, I think our first step should be to make sure we thank them, then the next step can be to ask what more can we do to address the climate crisis.

Similarly in Pennsylvania former Governor Wolf took an extremely important step to put the state of Pa in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and current Governor Shapiro is also taking the important step of trying to get stakeholders from labor, industry, and the environment to look at how or if RGGI might be implemented in Pa. I would like to say emphatically that this is a very important step to try to get groups together who are normally at odds to agree on supporting RGGI in Pa. I would also like to say emphatically that the RGGI program has a proven track record of great progress on reducing emissions and advancing clean energy in the states where it has been implemented. So most certainly we should be thanking former Gov Wolf and Gov Shapiro. Gov Shapiro also supports the 30% renewable energy by 2030 bill and considering how far Pa is behind in renewable energy, this bill would be fantastic for us. Thank you, Gov Shapiro!

I was recently at the climate march and rally in NYC. I came away convinced that this fight for climate action is not over and we are not down for the count. I have this sneaky suspicion that we are going to get our act together and take bold action to cut carbon pollution.