

November 2, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor  
Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT, 06106

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
Office of the Governor  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

The Honorable Phil Scott  
Office of Governor Phil Scott  
109 State Street, Pavilion  
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Baker, Governor Malloy, Governor Raimondo, and Governor Scott:

We, the New England Power Generators Association and regional environmental and science advocacy organizations, call on your states to develop and participate in a regional, market-based policy to address greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

As partners in reducing power sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), we appreciate the important role that flexible, multi-state, market-based policies play in addressing climate change at least cost and maximum benefit. In states covered by the RGGI program, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity generation are now more than 45 percent below 2005 levels.

However, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the power sector alone will not be enough to meet economy-wide climate change goals. Policymakers must also focus their attention on controlling the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the region, the transportation sector, to achieve long-term climate objectives.

The transportation sector accounts for approximately 35 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and that share continues to grow.<sup>1</sup> However, with alternatives such as electric vehicles charged by an increasingly clean power grid, the technologies and systems needed to significantly cut emissions from the transportation sector are available.

To enable this cleaner transportation future we need state leadership and the right policies.

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<sup>1</sup> Georgetown Climate Center (2015), *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transportation Opportunities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic*, available at [http://www.georgetownclimate.org/files/report/GCC-Reducing\\_GHG\\_Emissions\\_from\\_Transportation-11.24.15.pdf](http://www.georgetownclimate.org/files/report/GCC-Reducing_GHG_Emissions_from_Transportation-11.24.15.pdf).

**We call on New England states to take the next step in addressing climate change by applying the lessons learned under RGGI to develop a regional, market-based climate policy that leads to significant greenhouse gas emission reductions from the transportation sector.**

As we have seen in the power sector, RGGI provides economic signals that harness market innovation for cleaner energy. If market-based policies are applied to transportation, we believe that RGGI's benefits would be replicated. Moreover, such a program would provide significant opportunities to improve the region's transportation infrastructure and expand access to clean, affordable and modern mobility options that meet the needs of residents and communities.

We urge your states to quickly begin developing a regional, market-based transportation climate policy, in consultation with the region's stakeholders, with the aim of signing a memorandum of understanding and developing a model rule by the end of 2018.

Together, we stand ready to help in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Acadia Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New England Power Generators Association, Inc.  
Sierra Club  
Union of Concerned Scientists