



February 27, 2020

To: Governor Phil Murphy – The State of New Jersey

**TCI Leadership Team:** Kathleen Theoharides, Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; R. Earl Lewis, Jr., Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation

**TCI Executive Policy Committee:** Marty Suuberg, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; Roger Cohen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

**TCI Technical Analysis Workgroup:** Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; Chris Hoagland, Economist, Climate Change Division, Maryland Department of the Environment

Re: TCI Draft MOU Comments

We want to thank Governor Murphy, the administration, and the bipartisan administrations throughout the Northeast and DC in their continuing exploration and interest in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI).

The science is clear and we are at a point where collective action is needed to address the climate crisis to avoid spurring a positive feedback loop of warming beyond our ability to mitigate. TCI offers a regional approach to addressing some of the most cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that has largely just become a focus of state action. Recently, New Jersey signed the nation-leading, ambitious and bipartisan electric vehicle (EV) bill, which seeks to decarbonize New Jersey's transportation sector by offering a sliding-scale of rebates to increasingly efficient EV's, establishes a plan to create an essential public fast charging network in transit hotspots throughout the state; and puts New Jersey Transit, one of the biggest transit authorities in the United States, on a path to electrify its bus fleet by nearly 2040. All in all, this bill puts New Jersey on a strong foundation to catalyze action but more needs to be done to spur investment in clean transportation alternatives and swiftly transition to our clean energy economy.

This is where TCI comes into play. This regional, bipartisan approach is what's needed to elevate the collaborative urgency the northeast is demonstrating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the climate crisis. The New Jersey League of Conservation is strongly supportive of the TCI draft framework and MOU that encourages states to reduce emissions and we strongly urge Governor Murphy to demonstrate his leadership as the Greenest Governor in America to sign onto the formalized MOU in May and continue exploring the benefits of what this regional cap-and-invest program could mean for New Jersey – especially for our overburdened and environmental justice communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.



The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters has signed onto multiple coalition letters supporting TCI including the Our Transportation Future Coalition and a joint letter of New Jersey policymakers and advocates supporting the draft TCI MOU. While we strongly support Governor Murphy signing the formalized MOU to continue pursuing the goals of TCI, we do however urge the TCI Leadership Team and Executive Policy Committee for flexibility and to allow states with the ability to formalize and promulgate the rules necessary to participate in TCI throughout the 2021 calendar year and not just solely in the beginning of 2021.

The timeline adjust outlined above is key to New Jersey's alignment with the state's recently released Energy Master Plan, the updated Global Warming Response Act and other decarbonizing efforts underway in New Jersey, which ensure robust support and commitment to TCI.

Sincerely,

Ed Potosnak  
Executive Director  
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters