The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of Washington, D.C.
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

October 10, 2019

Dear Mayor Bowser;

We write to applaud you for the progress you have made with the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI.) This groundbreaking policy to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states is the type of bold leadership we will need to face our climate challenges. On behalf of the Ceres BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy) Network and Second Nature, we applaud your action to date and stand ready to assist you as you move to finalize the policy and towards implementation.

Ceres and Second Nature are two national organizations committed to organizing businesses and higher education institutions to act on climate change. In July of 2018, many of our members urged you to push forward with a cap-and-invest policy for transportation. Over the past two years businesses and higher education institutions have outlined the need for a market-based solution to curb transportation emissions and continue to be eager to see this program advance.

As the International Panel on Climate Change 1.5 °C report[1] demonstrated, the current efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions are inadequate in both scale and scope. The transportation sector is now the largest source of emissions in the United States and we need bold action to push this sector towards decarbonization. A cap-and-invest framework creates opportunity for collective action across the region and state-specific investment and innovation. We encourage the states to consider an aggressive 'cap' on emissions and a high price for pollution at the outset to ensure rapid emissions reduction.

In addition to emissions reductions, this program will help spur the dramatic innovation needed to tackle the movement of people, goods and services. The proceeds can provide important investments needed to revolutionize public transportation, support multiple transportation modes, create vehicle electrification infrastructure in urban and rural areas, and improve public health across the region and especially in frontline communities.

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[1] International Panel on Climate Change – Special Report -https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

Thank you for approaching these issues with the requisite ambition and thoughtfulness. We eagerly await the remaining details of the policy and the transformative future it promises.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Kelly
Vice President Government Relations, Ceres
On behalf of the Ceres BICEP Network

Tim Carter
President, Second Nature

BICEP Network Members:

Adobe, Annie's Inc., Aspen Ski, Autodesk, Inc., Aveda, Ben & Jerry's, Burton Snowboards, Clif Bar & Company, Dignity Health, eBay Inc., Eileen Fisher, Etsy, Inc., Fetzer Vineyards, Gap Inc., General Mills, Inc., Hackensack Meridian Health, IKEA, Impossible Foods, Indigo Ag. Inc., JLL, Kaiser Permanente, KB Home, Kellogg Company, Levi Strauss & Co., Lbrands, LinkedIn, L'Oreal USA, Lyft, Mars Incorporated, Microsoft, Nature's Path Foods, Nestlé, New Belgium Brewing, Nike, The North Face, Outdoor Industry Association, Owens Corning, Patagonia, Portland Trail Blazers, Salesforce, Schneider Electric, Seventh Generation, San Francisco International Airport, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., Squaw Valley, Starbucks, Stonyfield Farm, Symantec Corporation, Timberland, Unilever, VF Corporation, Vail Resorts, Vulcan, Inc., Worthen Industries

Second Nature, Climate Leadership Steering Committee:

Randolph College, Arizona State University, Appalachian State University, Chatham University, Delta College, California State University, Northridge, State University of New York, Virginia Wesleyan University, Portland Community College, Iowa Lakes Community College, Eastern Connecticut State University, California State University, Lewis and Clark College, Framingham State University, University of Arizona, College of the Atlantic, Truckee Meadows Community College, Colorado College

cc:
Director Tommy Wells