

To: Governor Ned Lamont, Governor John Carney, Governor Janet Mills, Governor Larry Hogan, Governor Charlie Baker, Governor Chris Sununu, Governor Phil Murphy, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Governor Tom Wolf, Governor Gina Raimondo, Governor Phil Scott, Governor Ralph Northam and Mayor Muriel Bowser:

DATE: February 28, 2020

RE: Employer Support for Regional Proposal for Clean Transportation

We are a diverse group of organizations and businesses united by the once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize and decarbonize our region's transportation system. We are writing to express our strong support for the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI).

We believe that the policy created through TCI will achieve several of our shared goals concurrently: mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from transportation; where applicable help meet binding carbon reduction goals; invest in much-needed public transit, alternative transportation and road infrastructure; make the region more economically competitive; alleviate congestion; provide benefits for rural communities; and generate a revenue stream to fund these and future transportation improvements.

Why TCI is Not a Gas Tax

TCI is a carbon pricing system focused on an essential outcome: reducing pollution from the transportation sector. TCI would establish a regional cap on carbon emissions while auctioning emissions allowances. Proceeds from the TCI allowance sales would be sent back to the states and used for programs that allow consumers to avoid paying higher fees at the gas pump—electric vehicle (EV) incentives, public transit, rural broadband to support telecommuting and telemedicine, and more. Eventually, TCI investments could eliminate the need for allowance sales over time. A gas tax, by contrast, allows states to raise and spend revenues however they like with no direct transportation or environmental benefits, such as emissions reductions or consumer protections.

Investment in Transportation Infrastructure and EVs

We are heartened by the opportunity to invest in new and improved transit solutions (through the proceeds from TCI allowance sales) that will make transit and alternative transportation modes more affordable, reliable, safe, and accessible. Public transit remains the most carbon-efficient, affordable and equitable way to move people and reduce congestion. Physical mobility and economic mobility are also inextricably linked.

Electrification of transportation is also essential to tackling the climate crisis. TCI will support this transition by allowing states to develop programs that encourage the purchase of electric and low-carbon-emitting vehicles (fleets, buses, passenger vehicles, trucks and rail) and equitably build out essential charging infrastructure across the region. As we continue to decarbonize the transportation sector, provide charging infrastructure, and add more renewable energy to the grid, will have an increasingly positive environmental impact on our region.

Benefits for Rural Communities

TCI proceeds can and should be used to give residents more choices and support economic development in rural communities. Funds can be used to upgrade infrastructure that will increase broadband access in underserved communities, support integration of technology in motor vehicles, enable use of TNCs, support EV charging infrastructure in rural areas, and enable more frequent bus service, or better access to commuter trains. For those who have to drive, EV cost savings increase the more miles a vehicle travels on the road. TCI can support incentives, rebates and charging infrastructure to help people purchase these vehicles, eliminate gasoline expenses, and pocket the savings from reduced vehicle maintenance requirements.

Tackle Emissions for Those Most Impacted by Pollution

States also have an opportunity to use the TCI proceeds to prioritize emission reduction in communities that are disproportionately burdened by pollution and have the least access to reliable transportation options. We support the TCI states' efforts to prioritize consideration for funds and programs in these most vulnerable communities.

The existing transportation system has a chokehold on our economy and our climate goals. We feel an urgency to create a transportation future that enables economic growth and substantial decarbonization. We encourage all participating states to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Thank you,

Acadia Center	E4TheFuture
Akamai Technologies*	Eastern Bank
Alliance for Business Leadership	Eastern Connecticut State University
Anbaric Development Partners	EcoPlum
Argyle Brewing Company, LLC.	Edelmann Love Properties Inc.
Associated Industries of Massachusetts	EILEEN FISHER*
Autodesk*	Endosys, LLC.
Baldwin Brothers*	Enel North America*
Ben and Jerry's Homemade, Inc.*	Environmental League of Massachusetts
Biogen*	Etsy*
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts*	Evergreen Home Performance, LLC.
Boston Green Ribbon Commission	Eversource Energy*
Boston Trust Walden*	FirstLight Power
Burgundy Basin	Framingham State University
Burton*	Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Cape Air*	Hackensack Meridian Health*
Ceres	Haverford College
Clif Bar*	HeartPath Acupuncture
Climate Dads	IKEA North American Services, LLC.*
DIAG Studios, PLLC.	Inherent Group, LP.
Domini Impact Investments, LLC.	Investor Advocates for Social Justice*
DSM North America*	Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)	Kinetic Communities

Legal Sea Foods*
Lime*
M&E Engineers, Inc.
Massachusetts Business Roundtable
Massachusetts Competitive Partnership
Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
Miller/Howard Investments*
Northeast Clean Energy Council
New England Power Generators Association
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Jersey Sustainable Business Council
Pax World Funds*
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Refresh Interiors
Renewable Energy Vermont
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Rivanna Natural Designs, Inc.
Rivermoor Energy
Saint Peter's University
Saunders Hotel Group
Schneider Electric*
School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative
Investments
Second Nature
Seventh Generation*
Sigma Consultants, Inc.

Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill,
Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell
State Street Corporation*
Studio G Architects
The Green Engineer, Inc
The Nature Conservancy
The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott
& Coolidge*
Transport Hartford Academy at the Center for
Latino Progress
Trillium Asset Management*
TripZero
UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of
Maryland
US Green Building Council-NJ
Vert Asset Management
Virginia Wesleyan University
Wells College
WeNeedaVacation.com, LLC.
Widener University Commonwealth Law
School
Worthen Industries*

** Denotes over \$100 Million in annual revenue or \$1 billion or more in assets under management.*

For more information contact or to connect with the signatories please contact Jcarlson@ceres.org.