



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

November 5, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Secretary Benjamin Grumbles
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Secretary Pete Rahn
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

RE: Importance of Regional Policy to Address Climate Pollution from
Transportation

Dear Governor Hogan, Secretary Grumbles, and Secretary Rahn:

As elected officials in Maryland, we embrace the regional Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) in its efforts to develop a regional policy to limit and reduce climate pollution from the transportation sector. Indeed, we all voted for the Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act during the 2019 session to ensure that Maryland was vigorously participating in the formation of TCI. As the policy development phase of your initiative enters its next critical phase, as detailed in your announcement from October 1, 2019, we would like to emphasize the need to develop and finalize an ambitious new program. This program should help Maryland and the entire region meet and exceed greenhouse gas reduction targets as detailed by state law and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and improve the lives of Marylanders.

Our transportation sector is now the largest contributor of dangerous climate-disrupting pollution in Maryland and the United States. In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we need to meet the mandated greenhouse gas emission reductions detailed in the Maryland Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2016 (GGRA) and those identified by the IPCC. This means we must advance policies that specifically target pollution reductions from motor fuels. Within those efforts, we must also ensure that our pollution reduction measures address the concerns of communities traditionally overburdened by transportation pollution and underserved by our

current transportation systems. The description thus far of a regional policy initiative, drawing from the lessons of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for the power sector, present a unique opportunity to accomplish both of those goals, and to do so with aggressive ambition.

To help meet these ambitious and necessary climate action targets, we believe that, by 2032, the cap-and-invest program should achieve a minimum 45% reduction below 2018 levels in climate pollution for covered fuels. In 2032, this cap trajectory would translate to an approximate 150 million metric tons region-wide and an estimated share of 12 million metric tons in Maryland.

In addition to robust pollution reductions, it is critical that Maryland advocate at the regional level for investment of proceeds to be prioritized to additional greenhouse gas-reducing initiatives. We also encourage state agencies to become more proactive and intentional about public engagement regarding this policy development process in Maryland. Other TCI-participating states like Massachusetts and New York have hosted several public engagement and feedback meetings outside of the regional stakeholder process and Maryland should do the same. We request that you host meetings across the regions of Maryland, including urban, suburban, and rural settings to solicit feedback on the proposed policy framework.

As the TCI states continue this robust policy development, we request that the administration advocate for the principles of ambition detailed within this letter. The climate crisis is an urgent issue that requires aggressive leadership and programs that reduce pollution, create prosperous economic opportunity for Maryland families, and correct systemic issues with our historic transportation systems. We urge you to create a regional climate action policy for the transportation sector that pushes the state to meet and exceed its GGRA goals.

Sincerely,

Senator Jill P. Carter
Senator Clarence K. Lam
Senator Jim Rosapepe
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Delegate Heather Bagnall
Delegate Tony Bridges
Delegate Benjamin Brooks
Delegate Jon S. Cardin
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield
Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais
Delegate Shelly Hettleman
Delegate Ariana B. Kelly
Delegate Marc Korman
Delegate Karen Lewis Young
Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Delegate Brooke E. Lierman

Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti
Delegate Sara Love
Delegate David Moon
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr
Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Delegate Susie Proctor
Delegate Pam Queen
Delegate Kirill Reznik
Delegate Emily Shetty
Delegate Jared Solomon
Delegate Dana Stein
Delegate Vaughn Stewart
Delegate Jen Terrasa
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins

CC: Transportation and Climate Initiative Participating States