

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Support for Investing in New York's Clean Transportation

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We write in support of a comprehensive plan to invest in diverse, clean and modern transportation solutions and infrastructure throughout New York State, including under an equitable, well-designed Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) policy.

Our transportation system is vital to the health and well-being of New Yorkers and to our state's economy. Yet this system faces numerous challenges, many of them decades in the making. These include old and outdated infrastructure; traffic congestion; budget shortfalls at the MTA and other transit agencies; inadequate access to public transportation in many urban, rural, and suburban communities; and streets that are often unsafe for walking and biking.

Critically, our transportation system and its reliance on polluting fossil fuels is a major source of health-harming soot and smog that sickens thousands of New Yorkers a year and is the number one source of climate pollution. While the impacts of pollution are felt throughout New York State, too often our most vulnerable citizens bear the greatest burden. We can and must do better.

We are encouraged by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Transportation, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's recent outreach across the state, in meetings in Albany, Buffalo, Ithaca, Long Island, and New York City, to solicit input on a TCI policy that would cut transportation pollution in New York and other eastern states and invest in the 21st century transportation we need.

As participants in these public meetings, we strongly support New York's leadership of these regional discussions and have provided input on a wide-range of proven and impactful solutions that such a policy could support, such as expanded and more accessible public transit; electric buses and other clean vehicles; affordable and equitable transit-oriented housing; walkable and bikeable communities; cleaner fuels; and improved land use planning.

We commend your administration's work in this area and urge you to continue leading regionally through TCI and at the state level to develop and implement a broad strategy to invest in and deliver clean and modern transportation solutions in all corners of the state.

Sincerely,

Lauren Bailey
Director of Climate Policy, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Stakeholder Panelist, Long Island Meeting

Karim Beers
Coordinator, Get Your GreenBack Tompkins
Stakeholder Panelist, Ithaca Meeting

Chris Carrick
Energy Program Manager, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
Stakeholder Panelist, Ithaca Meeting

Kelly Dixon
Principal Planner, Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
Stakeholder Panelist, Buffalo Meeting

Robert Freudenberg
Vice President, Energy & Environment, Regional Plan Association
Stakeholder Panelist, New York City Meeting

Michael Galligano
CEO, Shared Mobility Inc.
Stakeholder Panelist, Buffalo Meeting

Karen Glitman
Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Markets, Center for Sustainable Energy
Stakeholder Panelist, Long Island Meeting

Kathy Harris
Clean Vehicles & Fuels Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council
Stakeholder Panelist, Albany Meeting

Bruce Ho
Senior Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council
Stakeholder Panelist, New York City Meeting

Tom Knipe
Deputy Director for Economic Development, City of Ithaca
Stakeholder Panelist, Ithaca Meeting

Ryan Lamberg
Consultant, National Biodiesel Board
Stakeholder Panelist, Long Island and New York City Meetings

Benjamin Mandel
Northeast Regional Director, CALSTART
Stakeholder Panelist, New York City Meeting

Will Marsh
Eastern Campaigns Manager, Natural Resources Defense Council/NRDC Action Fund

Stakeholder Panelist, Long Island Meeting

Dana Mecomber
Manager of Special Sustainability Initiatives, Port Authority of NY & NJ
Stakeholder Panelist, New York City Meeting

Nick Sifuentes
Executive Director, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Stakeholder Panelist, New York City Meeting

Philip Wilcox
Retired, IBEW Local 97
Stakeholder Panelist, Buffalo Meeting

CC:

Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor
David Yassky, Director of State Policy
Michael Woljnar, Deputy Secretary for Transportation
Dale Bryk, Deputy Secretary for Energy and Environment
Amanda Lefton, First Assistant Secretary for Energy and Environment
John Rhodes, Chair, New York State Public Service Commission
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, Department of Transportation
Alicia Barton, President/CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner, Department of Health
Gil Quinones, President/CEO, New York Power Authority