

December 17, 2019

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

RE: New York Businesses Support a Strong Transportation and Climate Initiative Plan

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As business leaders in New York, we write in strong support of your leadership of the Transportation and Climate Initiative discussions to develop a policy that invests in clean and modern transportation solutions in New York State and across the region.

Our transportation system, including the roads, bridges, railways, ports, airports, bike paths, sidewalks, and waterways that cross our state, is one of New York's greatest assets. As business leaders, we rely on this system in innumerable ways—from accessing markets and reaching customers to providing the means for ourselves and our employees to get to work. Without the transportation system, New York's economy could not function.

Unfortunately, this system is increasingly strained due to outdated infrastructure and our state's growing needs. Traffic congestion acts as a literal brake on economic activity for businesses both large and small, while gaps in our public transit systems reduce the workforce and leave too many communities behind. We also recognize the critical need to not simply rebuild but to transform our current transportation system, with motor vehicles now contributing more climate pollution in New York State and nationwide than any other source.

For these reasons, we support New York's engagement in and leadership of the regional Transportation and Climate Initiative dialogue. Together with our neighboring states, New York has an opportunity to invest in transportation solutions that benefit all New Yorkers. The proposed Transportation and Climate Initiative plan would rely on proven market-based strategies to set our state on the path to clean transportation.¹ In doing so, the plan would generate critical resources for investments in electric buses and expanded public transit routes in urban, suburban, and rural areas; commercial districts, neighborhoods, and town centers with safe, walkable and bikeable streets that improve access and livability; investments in clean vehicles that cut pollution and save families and businesses money; and many other solutions.

We are at a crossroads on New York's transportation. We can continue to put band-aids on fundamental problems, or we can seek transformative solutions that ensure New Yorkers have the innovative, modern, and clean transportation system we need for our economy and our everyday lives. Businesses strongly support your leadership in the Transportation and Climate Initiative and we urge you to finalize the bold and ambitious transportation plan we need.

¹ Transportation and Climate Initiative (2019), *Framework for a Draft Regional Policy Proposal*, https://www.transportationandclimate.org/sites/default/files/TCI-Framework_10-01-2019.pdf.

Sincerely,

Wyldon Fishman
President and Founder, NY Solar Energy Society

John Karyczak
Solar Consultant, Solar Liberty

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Karen Miller
Environmental Steward, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

David Magid
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CC:

Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor

Robert Mujica, Director, Division of Budget

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