



POLICY STATEMENT

Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI)

The Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional collaboration of 12 states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions that's intended purpose is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the transportation sector. Specifically, the goal of TCI is to create a "*regional, low-carbon transportation policy proposal that would cap and reduce carbon emissions from the combustion of transportation fuels.*" Maryland announced participation in the coalition in December 2018, and since that time there have been a number of regional stakeholder meetings seeking input on overall regional transportation priorities, potential emissions reductions goals, and policy proposals to meet those targets.

As this process continues to move forward, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (MDCC) urges that the following principles be taken into account as Maryland and policymakers work toward a regional transportation policy proposal:

- 1) Transparency.** An open and public process is critical to the formation of sound public policy. The MDCC urges that any proposals brought forward to achieve the goals laid out by TCI be subject to rigorous analysis that recognizes both the benefits and costs to the public and the business community. As well, proposals should be subject to a thorough and public vetting process while being considered as potential pathways to meeting TCI's targets.
- 2) Market-Based.** Market-based solutions have proven to be successful in providing the level of flexibility needed to meet environmental goals cost-effectively. The MDCC believes that any proposal put forward should be market-based, as these types of policies are most cost-effective and spur the innovation necessary to achieve positive outcomes.
- 3) Dedicated Revenue.** Many market-based policies have the potential of generating revenue. The MDCC advocates that any revenue generated from TCI be dedicated to programs and initiatives that contribute to cost-effective energy and environmental solutions rather than returned to the General Fund or used for other purposes.