



MARYLAND TRANSIT CAUCUS

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February 21, 2020

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

Secretary Greg Slater
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

RE: Draft Memorandum of Understanding on Transportation & Climate Initiative

Dear Secretary Grumbles and Secretary Slater,

We, undersigned members of the Maryland Transit Caucus, write to encourage you to finalize the design of a cross-state policy that ambitiously and equitably cuts transportation pollution and generates beneficial investments through the Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) collaboration.

Our transportation sector is now the largest contributor of dangerous climate-disrupting pollution in Maryland. Pollution from the tailpipes of cars, buses, and trucks continue to pose a major threat to public health by contributing to asthma and increasing the risk of cancers, heart disease, emphysema and other respiratory diseases. To tackle pollution levels recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change, and exceed the goals of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Draft Plan, it is necessary that Maryland cut pollution at least 45% by 2030 through TCI and complementary policies. Maryland should consider no less than a 25% reduction below 2022 levels by 2032 through a strict cap on transportation fuels to help meet this goal. A 25% reduction in emissions can generate an estimated \$500 million in investments in 2022 in Maryland alone, over 60% more than a 20% reduction scenario. This modeled program indicates that this revenue will create jobs, increase disposable income, boost economic development, and have major public health benefits.

To enact a strong program, TCI states should not freely auction any allowances or allow offset emissions. The draft Memorandum of Understanding proposes to limit gasoline and diesel fuel alone. While on-road gasoline and diesel account for 89% of climate pollution in Maryland, we urge Maryland to also consider limits on biofuels, aviation and marine fuels, and propane used as transportation fuels that also contribute to climate change through TCI to help meet the reductions we need.



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In addition to enacting robust pollution reductions, Maryland and other TCI states should establish shared priorities for investments that ensure proceeds substantially benefit communities that are disproportionately impacted by transportation pollution and underserved with access to clean transportation. The final design should include specific action steps to proactively solicit input from the public and environmental justice groups who have largely not been at the table, as each state makes its decisions about how to invest the proceeds. Additionally, generated revenues should be secured in a lockbox and investments should be limited to the purpose of this program--namely reduction of greenhouse gas emissions--and not be used for general funds.

Examples of shared categories of investment include public transit, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, vehicle electrification, and transit oriented development with affordable housing. TCI funds should also be used for worker re-training both to protect anyone harmed by the transition away from fossil fuels in the transportation sector and to teach any necessary new skills to current employees (for example, for operators and maintenance employees working on new zero emissions buses). TCI states should make a commitment to encourage project labor agreements, and invest in other programs that create quality jobs that contain worker protections, including family sustaining wages and benefits. The Transit Caucus is particularly interested in working with you to develop a robust quality job creation program in the state with the monies that will be generated from TCI.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Delegate Marc Korman
Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti
Delegate Alfred Carr
Delegate Jared Solomon
Delegate Alice Cain
Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo
Senator Shelly Hettleman
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian
Delegate Sara Love
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Delegate Kathleen Dumais
Delegate Jim Gilchrist
Senator Cory McCray
Delegate Terri Hill
Senator Pam Beidle
Delegate Brooke Lierman

CC: Transportation and Climate Initiative Participating States
