

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

October 8, 2020

RE: Employer Support for Regional Proposal for Clean Transportation

Dear Governor Northam:

We are a diverse group of organizations and businesses united by the extraordinary opportunity to modernize and decarbonize our region's transportation system. We are writing to express our strong support for the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI).

We believe that the policy created through TCI will achieve several of our shared goals focused on responding to the impacts of COVID-19: deploying necessary clean transportation technologies; mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from transportation; investing in much-needed public transit, alternative transportation and road infrastructure; and more.

Why TCI is Not a Gas Tax

TCI is a carbon pricing system focused on an essential outcome: reducing pollution from the transportation sector. A gas tax, by contrast, allows states to raise and spend revenues however they like. TCI's carbon pricing system focuses on reducing pollution from the transportation sector by placing a cap on carbon emissions while auctioning emissions allowances; proceeds of which would only go towards low-GHG transportation improvements.

Investment in Transportation Infrastructure and EVs

We are heartened by the opportunity to invest TCI proceeds in new and improved transit solutions that will make transit, alternative transportation modes, and electrification of transportation more affordable, reliable, safe, and accessible. Public transit remains the most low-congestion, carbon-efficient, affordable and equitable way to move people. TCI proceeds could improve public transit, offer more choices for individuals, and encourage the purchase of electric and low-carbon-emitting vehicles (fleets, buses, passenger vehicles, trucks and rail). Electrification of all forms of transportation and deployment of equitably distributed public charging infrastructure is also a critical component of accelerated transportation decarbonization for which TCI can support.

Tackle Emissions for Those Most Impacted by Pollution

States have an opportunity to use the TCI proceeds to prioritize emissions reductions in overburdened and underserved communities that are disproportionately burdened by pollution and have the least access to reliable transportation options. We support the TCI states' efforts to dedicate funding to these most vulnerable communities and the creation of inclusive processes to ensure equity in the program. The creation and empowerment of individual state Equity Commissions and transparency in data across the region will ensure environmental justice

communities have a voice in the implementation of the program and the allocation of revenue generated through it.

Benefits for Rural Communities

TCI proceeds can and should be used to give residents more choices and support economic development in rural communities. Funds can be used to increase broadband access, support EV charging infrastructure in rural areas, and enable more frequent bus service or better access to commuter trains. For those who have to drive, EV cost savings increase the more miles a vehicle travels on the road.

The existing transportation system is a roadblock to our economic and our climate goals. We feel an urgency to create a transportation future that enables economic growth and substantial decarbonization. We encourage all participating states to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Thank you,

Akamai Technologies*

Anbaric Development Partners
Argyle Brewing Company, LLC
Autodesk*
Baldwin Brothers*
Bemis Associates
Ben and Jerry's Homemade, Inc.*
Big Tree Farms, Inc.
Biogen*
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts*
Baroco Corporation
Boston Common Asset Management*
Boston Trust Walden*
Burton*
Cape Air*
Capilano + Company
Clif Bar*
Danfoss*
DHL*
DIAG Studios, PLLC.
Domini Impact Investments, LLC
Drawing Conclusions, LLC
DSM North America*
Eastern Bank*
Eco-Bags Products, Inc.
EcoPlum
ECOS
Edelmann Love Properties, Inc.
EILEEN FISHER*

eIQ Mobility

Endosys, LLC.
Enel North America*
Etsy*
Evergreen Home Performance, LLC
Eversource Energy*
Exact Solar
Exelon*
FirstLight Power
Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Future Proof Brands, LLC
Glen's Garden Market
Green Century Capital Management
Green Clean Maine
Grimshaw Architects
Habitus Incorporated
Hackensack Meridian Health*
Hannon Armstrong
Happy Family Organics
Happy Tails Day Care and Pet Resort
IKEA North American Services, LLC*
Inherent Group, LP.
Investor Advocates for Social Justice*
JLL*
Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure, LLC
Kleynimals
Legal Sea Foods*
Lime*
Lyft, Inc*

M&E Engineers, Inc.
MegaFood
Metis Consulting Group
Miller/Howard Investments*
Nestlé*
Novartis*
Pax World Funds*
PowerDash, Inc.
Refresh Interiors
ReVision Energy
Rivanna Natural Designs, Inc.
Rivermoor Energy
Saunders Hotel Group
Schneider Electric*
School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative
Investments
Schroder Investment Management North
America
Seventh Generation*

Higher Education Institutions

Chatham University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Framingham State University
Haverford College
Montgomery County Community College
Saint Peter's University
UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative

Siemens*
Sigma Consultants, Inc.
State Street Corporation*
Stonyfield Organic*
Studio G Architects
Tesla*
The Green Engineer, Inc.
The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott
& Coolidge*
Timberland*
Trillium Asset Management*
TripZero
Uber*
Unilever*
Vert Asset Management
Wayfair*
WeNeedaVacation.com, LLC
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates
Worthen Industries*

Unity College
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science
Virginia Wesleyan University
Wells College
Widener University Commonwealth Law
School

***Bold** indicates signatories with operations and/or investments in Virginia.*

** Denotes over \$100 Million in annual revenue or \$1 billion or more in assets under management.*

For more information or to connect with the signatories please contact drobba@ceres.org.

CC:

Matthew J. Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources
Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation
David K. Paylor, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Stephen C. Brich, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation