



February 19, 2020

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: The Transportation and Climate Initiative

Dear Mayor Bowser and Governors Hogan and Northam:

I am writing to express the support of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors for your efforts to advance the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI).

The COG Board passed the enclosed Resolution that applauds your leadership in working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector and recognizes the TCI's "cap and invest" program as providing a positive path forward to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and encourages the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to continue its involvement in the development of the program details and a Model Rule.

We recognize that final implementation actions to implement a "cap-and-invest" and complementary programs will be subject to further executive or legislative action in your jurisdictions and look forward to working with the District, Maryland, and Virginia to develop and implement these actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chuck Bean'.

Chuck Bean
Executive Director

Cc: Jeff Marootian, District of Columbia Department of Transportation Director
Tommy Wells, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment Director
Gregory Slater, Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary
Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary
Shannon Valentine, Virginia Secretary of Transportation
Matthew Strickler, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) established regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in 2008 to help mitigate the effect of greenhouse gas emissions on our changing climate; and

WHEREAS, COG completed regional greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories demonstrating that the region met the 2012 emissions reduction goal even as regional population grew by 20 percent and gross domestic product expanded by 39 percent between 2005 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, the latest regional GHG inventories indicate that while the region is making progress towards the 2020 emissions reduction goal, a 2016 report released jointly by COG, the Metropolitan Washing Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) determined that significant reductions would be needed in the energy, built environment, and transportation sectors to meet the region's 2050 goals; and

WHEREAS, the regional GHG emission inventory has found that transportation-related emissions constitute 41 percent of the region's GHG emissions, second only to the 52 percent contribution from the built environment; and

WHEREAS, future regional transportation-related GHG emissions modeled as part of the TPB's Visualize 2045 long-range transportation plan show that mobile-sector GHG emissions are projected to decrease by 22 percent from 2015 through 2040, but then increase by 2 percent from 2040 through 2045; and

WHEREAS, 12 states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic United States, including Maryland and Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia, are collaborating in their efforts to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector and have formed the Transportation and Climate Initiative to develop projects, programs, and policies to achieve the reductions; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2018, the Transportation and Climate Initiative announced its intention to design a regional carbon pricing policy proposal to reduce carbon emissions from the fuels consumed in the transportation sector through a "cap-and-invest" program in a more cost-effective manner than if individual jurisdictions acted alone; and

WHEREAS, the "cap and invest" program is based on a similar cooperative effort, called Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), among 10 Northeast states, that has helped reduce power sector carbon dioxide emissions through a "cap and trade" process since 2009; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2019 the Transportation and Climate Initiative released a framework for developing a regional "cap and invest" program and complementary policies and programs to further enable GHG emission reductions from transportation; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, the Transportation and Climate Initiative released a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that builds on the Oct. 1, 2019 “cap and invest” framework calling on the member jurisdictions who enter into the MOU to commit to collaborate on the establishment of a regional “cap and invest” program by developing a Model Rule for the program that caps carbon dioxide emissions at gradually declining levels; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation and Climate Initiative’s “cap and invest” program supports the COG regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments applauds the leadership of the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia for their proactive efforts to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector and being part of the Transportation and Climate Initiative; and
2. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments endorses the Transportation and Climate Initiative’s “cap and invest” program as providing a positive path forward to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and encourages the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia continued participation in developing the program details and Model Rule for the “cap and invest” program; and
3. The board directs the Executive Director to forward a copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on February 12, 2020.

Laura Ambrosio, COG Communications Specialist