

OUR TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

Modern. Clean. For Everyone.

July 29th, 2019

Dear Governor Baker, Mayor Bowser, Governor Carney, Governor Cuomo, Governor Hogan, Governor Lamont, Governor Mills, Governor Murphy, Governor Northam, Governor Raimondo, Governor Scott, Governor Sununu, and Governor Wolf,

Our Transportation Future (OTF) is a coalition of more than 50 local, state, regional, and national environmental, health, scientific, transportation, and business organizations committed to modernizing transportation across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. We advocate for a 21st-century regional transportation system that is cleaner; offers more varied, accessible, equitable, and affordable transportation options; reduces climate change pollution and pollution that harms human health; and serves the needs of everyone. OTF members are working to educate and engage a broad cross-section of stakeholders on the importance of adopting public policies that achieve these critical transportation goals, including taking an active role in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states' discussions in the Transportation & Climate Initiative's (TCI) regional policy development.

We commend your leadership on TCI and support your efforts to develop a regional agreement to reduce transportation emissions. Transportation is the largest source of climate-changing pollution in the U.S., and a significant cause of unhealthy air that increases asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and respiratory illnesses. Driving represents over eighty percent of emissions from transportation and those emissions are growing, despite cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles, because people are forced to make more frequent and longer trips. In addition to continuing to improve vehicle efficiency and increase electrification, we also need to make it easier for people to drive less by increasing clean, reliable and safe public transportation, and encouraging walking and biking. We believe an equitable and environmentally robust policy, designed through TCI, will be an important component of our shared vision.

Our priorities for a regional policy include an agreement that the participating states will:

- Promote more equitable outcomes, particularly for populations and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by air pollution and those with inadequate access to transportation and mobility.
- Reduce vehicle pollution that contributes to unhealthy air quality and climate change;
- Leverage transportation networks to create new economic opportunity for people, businesses, and communities;

- Establish new -- and enhance existing -- sources of funding to accelerate investments in bikeways, pedestrian walkways, electric vehicle infrastructure, and improved public transit, including intercity rail; and
- Foster policies that support sustainable, affordable, transit-oriented development and other land use decisions that reduce vehicle miles traveled.

We further believe it is important that resources from such a policy be used to measure and reduce emissions and the burdens of air pollution on residents, particularly in disproportionately impacted, overburdened, and underserved communities. Funds should *not* be used for projects, such as roadway expansions, that merely perpetuate our transportation status quo. At the same time, we recognize the need for a broader package of policies and investments related to climate change that go beyond investments made with TCI funds, including transportation resiliency.

The TCI regional policy development process creates a unique opportunity for participating states to work closely with a diverse group of stakeholders to carefully craft a policy that improves access to transportation and mobility choices for people living in all communities, whether they are rural, suburban, or urban. As a multi-state coalition representing a range of interests, Our Transportation Future is eager to engage in the policy development process.

We are grateful for your efforts on developing a regional transportation policy, and look forward to working with you and your teams to create a regional agreement that works for all.

Sincerely,

Our Transportation Future

The following members of the Our Transportation Future coalition have signed-on to this letter:

350 Mass for a Better Future
A Better City
Acadia Center
Appalachian Mountain Club
Center for Sustainable Energy
Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Ceres
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Clean Air Council
Clean Water Action
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate XChange
Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound
Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
ConnPIRG
Conservation Law Foundation

E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

Energize Maryland
Environment America
Environment Connecticut
Environment Maine
Environment Maryland
Environment Massachusetts
Environment New Hampshire
Environment New Jersey
Environment New York
Environment Rhode Island
Environment Virginia
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Green For All
Health Care Without Harm
Maine Conservation Voters
Maryland PIRG
MassINC Gateway Cities Innovation Institute
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Public Health Association
MassPIRG
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
New Jersey Sustainable Business Council
New York League of Conservation Voters
NJ PIRG
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)
PennEnvironment
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Rail Passengers Association
Sierra Club
Transport Hartford Academy at the Center for Latino Progress
Transportation for America
Transportation for Massachusetts
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Union of Concerned Scientists
U.S. PIRG
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)
Vermont Natural Resources Council