

September 12, 2016

Andrew McKeon, Executive Director
RGGI, Inc.
90 Church Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Paul Mercer, Commissioner
Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

Carlisle McLean, Commissioner
Maine Public Utilities Commission
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: Stakeholder comments for Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program review

Dear Mr. McKeon, Commissioner Mercer, and Commissioner McLean,

The undersigned fifteen Maine businesses strongly support Maine's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and believe the initiative has provided important benefits to our economy and environment. As the RGGI states consider a longer-term carbon emissions target in the context of the 2016 program review, we believe you can build on this success. **We urge you to set a target consistent with our existing climate goals, and take full advantage of RGGI's proven ability to deliver carbon and energy cost reductions.**

A clean environment is very important to a strong Maine economy. Our economy relies heavily on sustainable use of natural resources—from forests to fisheries—as well as a major outdoor tourism and recreation industry. In addition, investment and innovation in clean technology fields create new opportunities for economic growth in the state.

Climate change presents a major challenge for all of us. Maine has risen to this challenge in many ways, not only to do our part to protect our own state, but also to position ourselves as a leader in the transition to a clean energy economy. Like other states in the region, Maine has specific targets to reduce carbon pollution, including the target signed by Governor Paul LePage last year to reduce emissions 35-45% by 2030.

RGGI is a tremendously successful, market-based framework for reducing climate emissions while benefiting our economy and lowering energy costs. Maine has invested the majority of revenues from RGGI into highly cost-effective energy efficiency programs that help businesses like ours (as well as homes and others) reduce their energy costs. RGGI-funded energy efficiency efforts in Maine lower costs, create local jobs, and increase the competitiveness of Maine businesses. RGGI has consistently enjoyed strong bipartisan support in the Maine legislature.

Over the past eight years, RGGI has contributed toward the following outcomes in the region:

- Climate emissions from power plants have been reduced by more than 35%;
- Dangerous and toxic air pollutants have been cut by dramatic amounts;
- RGGI states are well positioned to exceed the EPA’s Clean Power Plan targets;
- Energy costs have been cut by \$1.7 billion through RGGI-funded energy efficiency improvements;
- Gross State Product across the region has increased by \$2.7 billion as a result of RGGI; and
- Employment has increased by 28,000 job-years because of RGGI.

We believe that the ongoing RGGI program review provides an opportunity to amplify the success of RGGI. The positive results so far should help the RGGI states craft a path forward that builds on what is working well. As a proven climate initiative that returns net benefits to our economy, RGGI can be the cornerstone of our strategy to meet our 2030 carbon pollution goal.

Maine businesses are increasingly investing in clean energy solutions such as energy efficiency improvements or renewables not only to protect our climate and Maine’s environment but also because it makes financial sense and creates new economic opportunities. There is much more to be done and a strong RGGI program can help get us there.

Sincerely,

Tim Soley
East Brown Cow
Portland

Samuel Zuckerman
Maine Solar Solutions
Durham

Phil Coupe
ReVision Energy
Portland & Liberty

David Semon
Gulf of Maine Custom Homes
Freeport

Russell Martin
M-Co Engineering
Freeport

Sharon Peralta
Custom Computer Services
Springvale

Bill Bell
Maine Pellet Fuels Assn.
Portland

Marina Schaufler
Natural Choices, LLC
Camden

Michael Landgarten
Robert’s Maine Grill
Kittery

Prisilla Skerry
Healing Routes
South Portland

Liz Trice
Peloton Labs
Portland

Mary Callahan
Kimball Street Studios
Lewiston

Richard Kane
Kane-Lewis Productions
Sedgwick

Jackson Parker
Reed & Reed, Inc
Woolwich

Steve and Johanna Corman
Vena’s Fizz House
Portland

cc: Mark Cone, Director, MDEP Bureau of Air Quality
Patrick Woodcock, Director, Governor’s Energy Office