



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **RGGI, Inc. Announces Election of New Chair and New Members of the Executive Committee**

NEW YORK — Kenneth Kimmell, current Chair of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI, Inc.) Board of Directors and Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, today announced the election of Kelly Speakes-Backman, Commissioner of the Maryland Public Service Commission, as the new Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. The RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors also elected new members to the Executive Committee. The new Chair and new Executive Committee members will begin their positions on March 26, 2014, with their terms ending on December 31, 2014.

The election resulted in:

- Kelly Speakes-Backman, Commissioner of the Maryland Public Service Commission, elected as Chair
- Joseph Martens, Commissioner of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, elected as Vice Chair
- Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, elected as Secretary
- Mark Sylvia, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, elected as a Member-at-Large

“It has been an honor to serve as the Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors,” said Commissioner Kimmell. “In 2014 the RGGI states moved forward in implementing a tighter cap and other changes from the program review. These changes strengthen RGGI and make it a more powerful program to reduce carbon emissions while growing a clean energy economy in the RGGI states.”

Commissioner Kimmell is leaving state government to take a leadership role in the public interest sector.

“The success of the RGGI program proves that simple, market-based programs can reduce carbon pollution while simultaneously generating benefits for ratepayers and stimulating economic growth,” said Commissioner Speakes-Backman. “I look forward to serving as Chair in support of a program that is a national model for power sector carbon pollution reduction, and working with the other states to build on RGGI’s record of accomplishment.”

Additional members of the Executive Committee include:

- Vice Chair Collin O'Mara, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Treasurer David Littell, Commissioner of the Maine Public Utilities Commission
- Member-at-Large James Volz, Chairman of the Vermont Public Service Board

RGGI, Inc.'s Executive Committee acts on behalf of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors to oversee the activities of RGGI, Inc. The Committee draws upon commissioners of environmental and energy agencies from across the RGGI region.

Biographies of Executive Committee members and of the entire Board of Directors are available at: <http://www.rggi.org/rggi/board>.

### **About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the second RGGI control period (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have implemented the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2014 RGGI cap is 91 million short tons. The RGGI cap then declines 2.5 percent each year from 2015-2020.

RGGI is composed of individual CO<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs in each state, based on each state's independent legal authority. A CO<sub>2</sub> allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, as issued by a respective state. A regulated power plant must hold CO<sub>2</sub> allowances equal to its emissions to demonstrate compliance for each three-year control period. RGGI's second control period began on January 1, 2012 and extends through December 31, 2014. For more information visit [www.rggi.org](http://www.rggi.org)

### **About Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.**

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI, Inc.) was created to provide technical and administrative services to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit: [www.rggi.org/rggi](http://www.rggi.org/rggi).

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