

To Whom It May Concern,

RGGI has been very effective in the participating states in reducing carbon emissions from power plants, improving air quality, and transitioning from dirty coal to cleaner burning natural gas. Most of the nine states in RGGI have set targets for decreasing their GHG emissions from all sources of around 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. In order to meet those targets it would be very helpful if the rate at which the cap decreases were increased from 2.5% per year to 5% per year. This would also help the states achieve the goals set for them in the electric sector by the Clean Power Plan.

Because Delaware is especially vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal storms, with its relatively long coast and low average elevation, our state should be a leader in urging other states to more rapidly decrease the cap. Delaware should also increase its 30% target in reducing its GHG emissions from all sources by 2030 to 40%, and set a target of 80-90% reduction from all sources by 2050; currently Delaware has no target beyond 2030.

Because low income and minority communities often suffer disproportionately from climate change, it would serve the cause of environmental justice if a part of the funds raised by the auction of emission allowances were set aside to assist low income communities to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and to adapt to the effects of sea level rise and flooding.

Since greenhouse gases from the transportation sector in Delaware are now more than those from electricity generation, it would be helpful if an increasing fraction of our RGGI income could be spent on encouraging the purchase of electric and hybrid vehicles, in developing vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, and in providing charging stations all over the state. Another good use of RGGI funds would be in exploring opportunities to cooperate with neighboring coastal states in developing our large offshore wind resource.

Sincerely yours,

Chad Tolman, Co-Chair of the New Castle County Congregations of Delaware Interfaith Power and Light