

April 26, 2017

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
90 Church Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Board of Directors of RGGI,

The American Lung Association is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the ongoing 2016 Program Review. We appreciate the Board's ongoing commitment to healthier air through lower emissions of carbon pollution from power plants. As we have seen in our recently released "State of the Air" Report, cleaning up the power sector through regulations like RGGI and the Clean Air Act have driven the reduction of unhealthy ozone and particle pollution in the Northeast. However, Northeast residents still suffer too much pollution that makes people sick and shortens their lives. Further, climate change threatens to make it more difficult to continue this progress, because warmer conditions enhance conditions for ozone pollution, and hotter, dryer weather can lead to dangerous spikes in particulate emissions from forest fires, drought, and dust. To this end the American Lung Association urges RGGI to consider the strongest reduction in the emissions cap possible, including consideration of the previously discussed 5.0% cap.

The public relies on RGGI to reduce emissions to improve health and fight climate change. Across the RGGI region, millions of adults and children have asthma, or many other conditions or are in stages of life that place them at greater risk from the air they breathe. Continuing to reduce carbon emissions and other pollutants from the power sector will prevent asthma attacks and exacerbations, reduce emergency room visits and the risk of death. The list of vulnerable populations is long: the elderly, the young, those with asthma, COPD, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and those in poverty. Even healthy adults who work or exercise outside are also at greater risk. Ultimately, we all rely on, and deserve, healthy air.

We urge your consideration of a 5.0% cap.

Sincerely,



Jeff Seyler, President & CEO
American Lung Association of the Northeast