May 25, 2016

Secretary Benjamin Grumbles  
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Baltimore, MD 21230  
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Chairman Kevin Hughes  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
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Baltimore, MD 21202  
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RE: Letter from Maryland Business Leaders in Support of a Strong Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

As business leaders, we continually strive to satisfy our customers’ needs at reasonable prices while creating jobs and earning fair profits. A growing economy with a solid foundation is essential to achieving our goals. As citizens, we want sustainable communities and expanding opportunities for everyone.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is essential to building a flourishing economic future and protecting public health. As the website, www.rggi.org, explains, “states sell nearly all emission allowances through auctions and invest proceeds in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other consumer benefit programs. These programs are spurring innovation in the clean energy economy and creating green jobs in the RGGI states.”

After seven years in operation, RGGI is a proven market-based framework by which states across the region can continue to drive job-creating, clean energy programs, ensuring good paying, homegrown jobs for Marylanders while fighting climate disruption by significantly reducing carbon pollution. Maryland has brought in almost half a billion dollars to our state’s budget through RGGI, and we have successfully turned that into jobs, ratepayer assistance, reduced energy demand, and clean energy growth.

We can now accelerate success by pushing for a RGGI program in 2030 that puts Maryland and other participating states at the forefront of the clean energy economy. As Maryland’s business and environmental communities have agreed on a new statewide climate pollution reduction goal, we are asking that, as the most cost-effective and proven program, RGGI should align with that target. The economic opportunity of the clean energy, energy efficiency, and electric vehicle sectors is enormous, and Maryland stands to gain thousands of jobs by leading with RGGI and leveraging its proceeds back into the economy.
RGGI broadly benefits Maryland businesses including construction & building trades, HVAC contractors, alternative energy entrepreneurs, architects & engineers and other sectors. Reduced utility bills benefit both businesses and consumers. Continuing to act as a leader, Maryland will see new businesses take root and expand in a way that provides good-paying jobs and protects the health of Marylanders everywhere.

We, the undersigned, proudly support a continuation and acceleration of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative targets that align with our state and regional goals.

Sincerely,

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Alliance for Green Heat  
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British American Car Care  
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CEM Design, Architects  
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Ecobeco, LLC  
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Elysian Energy  
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Green Generation Solutions, LLC  
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Helicon Works  
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Home Energy Loss Professionals (H.E.L.P.)  
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Lewis Construction  
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(signatures continue on subsequent pages)