



Good for the Economy.
Good for the Environment.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACTS: Alex Frank, 703-276-3264, afrank@hastingsgroup.com; Jeff Benzak, 202-513-6248, jeff@e2.org; Berl Hartman, berl@berlhartman.com, 617-308-9012; Nancy Israel, nancy@nancyisrael.com, 617-899-6425

Over 100 Businesses Leaders Urge Governor Baker's Leadership on Regional Climate Accord

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Program Review Takes on New Importance as Inaction would Jeopardize Emissions Requirements

BOSTON (March 3, 2016) – Business leaders from across Massachusetts are urging Gov. Charlie Baker in a letter sent to him today to continue pursuing regional energy solutions by extending the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) cap on greenhouse gas pollution from 2020 to 2030, with an annual cap reduction equivalent to at least 2.5 percent of 2014 emissions.

The letter urges the governor to act in a timely fashion this year, as effective and immediate climate action by states is even more critical after the U.S. Supreme Court decision staying the federal Clean Power Plan.

The letter, [available here](#), notes that Gov. Baker has championed regional solutions to Massachusetts' energy and climate challenges since he took office. In January, for instance, he joined states and regions around the world to endorse the Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding (Under2MOU), supporting the global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. Most recently, Gov. Baker joined 17 governors in signing a joint commitment to take action on clean energy, clean transportation and grid modernization through the [Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future](#).

"We commend Governor Baker for his forward-thinking leadership on these recent clean energy and climate commitments," said NECEC president Peter Rothstein. **"RGGI has proven to attract investment in clean energy to the Commonwealth's economy. Expanding the program is a win-win for the Baker Administration and a key way to stabilize and reduce energy costs, strengthen the clean energy economy and meet the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements."**

RGGI has been a notable success for the nine Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states that participate in the program. Since its inception in 2009, greenhouse gas emissions covered by RGGI decreased by 35 percent. In Massachusetts alone, the program has added \$740 million to the state's economy and created approximately 6,500 new jobs based on RGGI revenue.

“RGGI is not just good for the health and safety of the Commonwealth but for businesses who are greatly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” said Michael Green, executive director of the Climate Action Business Association. **“Businesses across all sectors can reap the benefits of a growing clean energy economy.”**

Charting an ambitious yet achievable path for RGGI to 2030 will provide clear signals for companies to invest in energy efficiency, clean energy, and other measures to reduce emissions. RGGI's flexible approach enables private companies to make investment decisions about how and when to reduce emissions.

“Massachusetts is a leader in clean energy, with nearly 100,000 employees and \$11 billion in revenue,” said Dave Miller, executive managing director of the Clean Energy Venture Group. **“Clean energy investors need the market signal and predictability that policies like RGGI provide. It shows that the state and region are serious about clean energy for the long term.”**

The Governor has made it clear that Massachusetts is well positioned to be a national clean energy leader. **“Governor Baker's recent statements have given us reason to hope that his administration will take a leadership role on climate,”** said Berl Hartman, director of the New England chapter of the national nonpartisan business group Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2). **“This is a concrete action they can take to show that they are really serious about the issue.”**

###

[Alliance for Business Leadership \(ABL\)](#) is a coalition of CEOs, entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders united in the belief that sustainable economic growth and social responsibility go hand-in-hand.

[Climate Action Business Association \(CABA\)](#) is a Boston-based organization that helps small business across the state take targeted action on climate change.

[Environmental Entrepreneurs \(E2\)](#) is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment.

[E4TheFuture](#) is a nonprofit working to advance clean, efficient energy solutions for residential customers.

[Northeast Clean Energy Council \(NECEC\)](#) is the premier voice of businesses building a world-class clean energy hub in the Northeast and helping clean energy companies start, scale and succeed with their unique business, innovation and policy leadership.