

Governor Ralph Northam
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn
House Speaker
900 E Main St, Rm. E605
Richmond, VA 23219

Senator Louise Lucas
President pro Tempore
900 E Main St, Rm. E604
Richmond, VA 23219

Delegate Charniele Herring
House Majority Leader
900 E Main St, Rm. E606
Richmond, VA 23219

Senator Dick Saslaw
Senate Majority Leader
900 E Main St, Rm. E602
Richmond, VA 23219

March 3, 2020

RE: Virginia Leaders' Appreciation for Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Dear Governor Northam and Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

As businesses, institutions and municipalities across Virginia, we write to commend you for passing legislation directing the commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

As organizations with operations, employees and/or constituents across Virginia, we understand firsthand how climate change affects fellow Virginians, public health, and the vibrancy of our economy. Joining RGGI will not only protect our communities from the harmful impacts of climate change but will also help Virginia take advantage of the opportunities that accompany the transition to a low-carbon economy.

In joining RGGI, Virginia will take part in a proven, market-based program for reducing carbon pollution from our region's electricity sector in a manner that protects ratepayers. We appreciate the work the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has done to date to evaluate RGGI, and we hope that this work expedites Virginia's official participation in the program. We also appreciate that the RGGI legislation recently passed prioritizes further emissions reductions and reduction of electricity burden by focusing on energy efficiency, while also enhancing the resiliency of our communities, through the use of RGGI proceeds. In implementing RGGI in Virginia, we also encourage the Commonwealth to make decisions that prioritize environmental justice and support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

Joining RGGI is an important milestone for Virginia and we thank you for your leadership. We look forward to Virginia's continued movement toward a low-carbon future.

Sincerely,

**Ameresco
Cree Lighting
Energy Shrink, LLC
George Mason University
Lutron Electronics
Mars Incorporated
Microsoft Corporation
Nestlé**

**Pax World Funds
Randolph College
Riviana Natural Designs, Inc.
Salesforce.com Inc.
Schneider Electric
The Stella Group, Ltd.
Sustainable Design Consulting,
LLC**

**Town of Blacksburg
Unilever
The Virginia Chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics
Virginia Clinicians for Climate
Action
Virginia Wesleyan University**