

The Honorable Gina Raimondo  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

October 8, 2020

RE: Employer Support for Regional Proposal for Clean Transportation

Dear Governor Raimondo:

We are a diverse group of organizations and businesses united by the extraordinary opportunity to modernize and decarbonize our region's transportation system. We are writing to express our strong support for the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI).

We believe that the policy created through TCI will achieve several of our shared goals focused on responding to the impacts of COVID-19: deploying necessary clean transportation technologies; mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from transportation; investing in much-needed public transit, alternative transportation and road infrastructure; and more.

### **Why TCI is Not a Gas Tax**

TCI is a carbon pricing system focused on an essential outcome: reducing pollution from the transportation sector. A gas tax, by contrast, allows states to raise and spend revenues however they like. TCI's carbon pricing system focuses on reducing pollution from the transportation sector by placing a cap on carbon emissions while auctioning emissions allowances; proceeds of which would only go towards low-GHG transportation improvements.

### **Investment in Transportation Infrastructure and EVs**

We are heartened by the opportunity to invest TCI proceeds in new and improved transit solutions that will make transit, alternative transportation modes, and electrification of transportation more affordable, reliable, safe, and accessible. Public transit remains the most low-congestion, carbon-efficient, affordable and equitable way to move people. TCI proceeds could improve public transit, offer more choices for individuals, and encourage the purchase of electric and low-carbon-emitting vehicles (fleets, buses, passenger vehicles, trucks and rail). Electrification of all forms of transportation and deployment of equitably distributed public charging infrastructure is also a critical component of accelerated transportation decarbonization for which TCI can support.

### **Tackle Emissions for Those Most Impacted by Pollution**

States have an opportunity to use the TCI proceeds to prioritize emissions reductions in overburdened and underserved communities that are disproportionately burdened by pollution and have the least access to reliable transportation options. We support the TCI states' efforts to dedicate funding to these most vulnerable communities and the creation of inclusive processes to ensure equity in the program. The creation and empowerment of individual state Equity Commissions and transparency in data across the region will ensure environmental justice

communities have a voice in the implementation of the program and the allocation of revenue generated through it.

### **Benefits for Rural Communities**

TCI proceeds can and should be used to give residents more choices and support economic development in rural communities. Funds can be used to increase broadband access, support EV charging infrastructure in rural areas, and enable more frequent bus service or better access to commuter trains. For those who have to drive, EV cost savings increase the more miles a vehicle travels on the road.

The existing transportation system is a roadblock to our economic and our climate goals. We feel an urgency to create a transportation future that enables economic growth and substantial decarbonization. We encourage all participating states to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Thank you,

Akamai Technologies*	eIQ Mobility
Anbaric Development Partners	Endosys, LLC.
Argyle Brewing Company, LLC	Enel North America*
Autodesk*	Etsy*
Baldwin Brothers*	Evergreen Home Performance, LLC
Bemis Associates	Eversource Energy*
Ben and Jerry's Homemade, Inc.*	Exact Solar
Big Tree Farms, Inc.	Exelon*
Biogen*	FirstLight Power
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts*	Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Baroco Corporation	Future Proof Brands, LLC
Boston Common Asset Management*	Glen's Garden Market
Boston Trust Walden*	Green Century Capital Management
Burton*	Green Clean Maine
Cape Air*	Grimshaw Architects
Capilano + Company	Habitus Incorporated
Clif Bar*	Hackensack Meridian Health*
Danfoss*	Hannon Armstrong
DHL*	Happy Family Organics
DIAG Studios, PLLC.	Happy Tails Day Care and Pet Resort
Domini Impact Investments, LLC	IKEA North American Services, LLC*
Drawing Conclusions, LLC	Inherent Group, LP.
DSM North America*	Investor Advocates for Social Justice*
Eastern Bank*	JLL*
Eco-Bags Products, Inc.	Kendall Sustainable Infrastructure, LLC
EcoPlum	Kleynimals
ECOS	Legal Sea Foods*
Edelmann Love Properties, Inc.	Lime*
EILEEN FISHER*	Lyft, Inc*

M&E Engineers, Inc.  
MegaFood  
Metis Consulting Group  
Miller/Howard Investments\*  
Nestlé\*  
Novartis\*  
Pax World Funds\*  
PowerDash, Inc.  
Refresh Interiors  
ReVision Energy  
Rivanna Natural Designs, Inc.  
Rivermoor Energy  
Saunders Hotel Group  
Schneider Electric\*  
School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative  
Investments  
Schroder Investment Management North  
America  
Seventh Generation\*

**Higher Education Institutions**

Chatham University  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Framingham State University  
Haverford College  
Montgomery County Community College  
Saint Peter's University  
UMass Lowell Climate Change Initiative

Siemens\*  
Sigma Consultants, Inc.  
State Street Corporation\*  
Stonyfield Organic\*  
Studio G Architects  
Tesla\*  
The Green Engineer, Inc.  
The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott  
& Coolidge\*  
Timberland\*  
Trillium Asset Management\*  
TripZero  
Uber\*  
Unilever\*  
Vert Asset Management  
Wayfair\*  
WeNeedaVacation.com, LLC  
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates  
Worthen Industries\*

Unity College  
University of Maryland Center for  
Environmental Science  
Virginia Wesleyan University  
Wells College  
Widener University Commonwealth Law  
School

*\* Denotes over \$100 Million in annual revenue or \$1 billion or more in assets under management.*

*For more information or to connect with the signatories please contact [drobba@ceres.org](mailto:drobba@ceres.org).*

CC:

Jane Coit, Director, Department of Environmental Management  
Peter Alviti, Director, Department of Transportation