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For Immediate Release

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## **RGGI States Applaud Key Step for Virginia Emissions Trading Regulation**

After an extensive public process, Virginia's Air Pollution Control Board today approved an important regulation to establish a market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The RGGI states have worked collaboratively with Virginia throughout this process, and applaud the advancement of Virginia's regulation. The approved regulation addresses the RGGI states' comments on previous versions of the rule, seeking consistency with the RGGI Model Rule and the regulations of each participating state. The RGGI states are reviewing new provisions in the approved regulation and look forward to continued collaboration with Virginia in support of its participation in the RGGI program.

Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors, said: "The RGGI states applaud Virginia for today's historic step forward in combating climate change and preparing for future participation in our successful regional initiative."

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### **About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)**

The New England and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the fourth RGGI control period (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have implemented the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2019 RGGI cap is 80.2 million short tons. The RGGI states also include interim adjustments to the RGGI cap to account for banked CO<sub>2</sub> allowances. The 2019 RGGI adjusted cap is 58.3 million short tons.

RGGI is composed of individual CO<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs in each state, based on each state's independent legal authority. A CO<sub>2</sub> allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, as issued by a participating state. A regulated power plant must hold CO<sub>2</sub> allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI's fourth control period began on January 1, 2018 and extends through December 31, 2020. For more information visit [www.rrgi.org](http://www.rrgi.org).

### **About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.**

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI, Inc.) was created to provide technical and administrative services to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit: [www.rrgi.org/rggi](http://www.rrgi.org/rggi).