

5/9/16

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.
90 Church Street, Fourth Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: Comments for 2016 RGGI Program Review

RGGI Member States,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the 2016 RGGI Program Review. Our environment is our most precious shared resource and it is imperative that we take every step possible to protect it. I join others in urging RGGI Member States to lower the cap on carbon pollution from power plants to less than 40 million tons by 2030.

The evidence is clear, we must take bold action in lowering our carbon emissions if we want to mitigate the effects of climate change. We have already seen the effects climate change can have on our planet. Every year continues to be the hottest year on record and if this pattern continues we risk doing irreversible damage. Worsening storms and rising tides puts all of our communities at risk to severe damage that destroys ecosystems and burdens our economic progress.

RGGI's model has been successful in showing that we can have both a healthy economy and a healthy environment. Since tightening the cap in 2012, RGGI has produced a net gain of more than 14,000 jobs and a net \$1.3 billion boost in our regional economy. By further lowering the cap on carbon pollution from power plants we will show the world that we are now more than ever fully committed to finding clean electric solutions and are willing to take bold steps to prevent the worst impacts of global warming. RGGI states are home to some of the most influential research institutions and minds in the cleantech community and by tightening the cap we will send a clear signal that they are not alone in the fight against global warming.

Respectfully,

Leland Cheung
Cambridge City Councilor
Cambridge, Massachusetts