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Vermont

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Waxman and Markey:

As Governors of the ten Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states, we commend you for releasing the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES). This historic and comprehensive approach to America's energy and climate policy is indeed welcome. We support a strong federal policy and we look forward to working closely with you on this effort.

In launching the country's first mandatory carbon dioxide emissions cap-and-trade program, our states have learned firsthand how the reinvestment of allowance auction revenues into energy efficiency, clean energy technologies and consumer benefit programs can accelerate the growth of the new clean energy economy envisioned by your bill. It is important to ensure that in creating a nation-wide cap-and-trade program we do not lose this existing momentum.

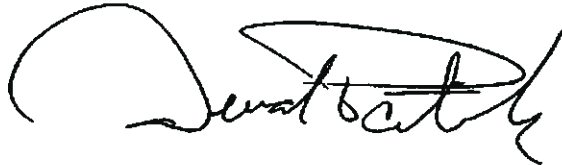
The ACES legislation prohibits state cap-and-trade programs like RGGI during the early years of the new federal cap-and-trade system, from 2012 through 2017. Until that time, RGGI allowance auction revenues will provide critical funding for state programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help consumers control their energy costs and promote technology innovation. If that revenue stream is lost, sustained progress at the state level will be difficult.

We do not comment on the proposed moratorium at this time. However, given the importance of maintaining our state clean energy and climate programs, we request that any such moratorium be accompanied by a mechanism to provide RGGI states with at least equivalent resources to fund state clean energy programs currently supported by our RGGI proceeds. We further support such funding for all states to establish energy efficiency and climate-related programs that lay the groundwork for a strong and successful clean energy economy for our country.

We believe that State programs for deployment of clean energy have proven to be effective and should play a significant part in the country's effort to combat climate change. To achieve the emission reductions the scientists say we need, federal climate legislation should retain a meaningful role for states that fosters state-based innovation and leadership to complement the necessary strong and comprehensive federal framework.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to working with you to advance this important climate legislation.

Sincerely,



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts



Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Connecticut



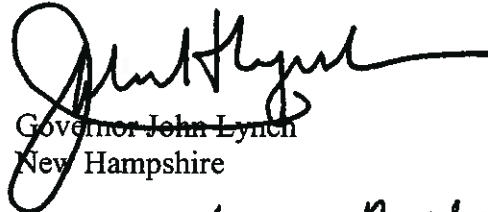
Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



Governor John Baldacci  
Maine



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor John Lynch  
New Hampshire



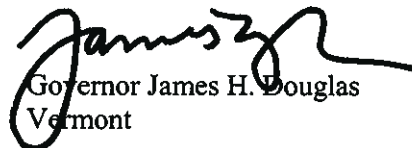
Governor Jon S. Corzine  
New Jersey



Governor David A. Paterson  
New York



Governor Donald L. Carcieri  
Rhode Island



Governor James H. Douglas  
Vermont

cc: President Obama  
Majority Leader Reid  
Minority Leader McConnell  
Chairwoman Boxer  
Ranking Member Inhofe  
Speaker Pelosi  
Minority Leader Boehner  
Ranking Member Barton  
Ranking Member Upton