

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2005

The Honorable Mitt Romney
State House
Office of the Governor
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Romney:

We are writing to express our belief that Massachusetts should join seven other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and sign the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This landmark regional agreement would work to curb carbon dioxide emissions that lead to global warming. We believe that the RGGI is an important step forward not only for the people of Massachusetts, but also for the rest of the country as a model for what can be accomplished through market-based reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

As you know, the RGGI is a market-based program that would cap carbon dioxide emissions from power plants at approximately current levels before achieving a 10 percent reduction from current emission levels by 2020. In addition to causing global warming, carbon dioxide emissions lead to asthma and other respiratory illnesses among children and the elderly. This historic regional agreement to curb these harmful emissions may be seriously compromised if Massachusetts does not participate.

The RGGI is based upon the very successful national market-based cap and trade program for sulfur dioxide emissions – the leading cause of acid rain - that was enacted as part of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Since its enactment, this program has achieved a 50 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions.

The RGGI would not only strengthen air quality standards, but would also encourage power plants to increase energy efficiency, which could significantly reduce energy costs for consumers in the long run. Massachusetts should continue to lead the way in environmental protection and technological innovation by joining this coalition of states committed to curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

We urge you to join the bipartisan coalition of governors from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and ensure that Massachusetts signs onto this important and historic agreement.

Sincerely,



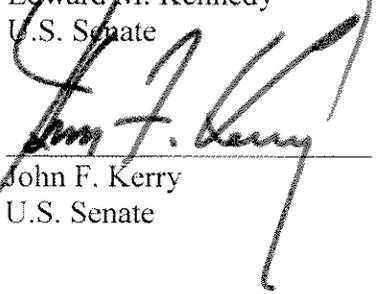
Edward J. Markey
U.S. House of Representatives



Barney Frank
U.S. House of Representatives



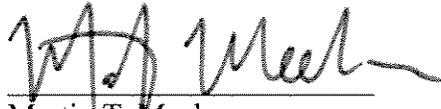
Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senate



John F. Kerry
U.S. Senate



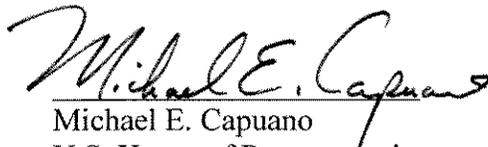
Richard E. Neal
U.S. House of Representatives



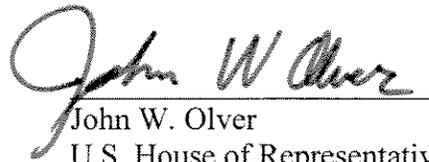
Martin T. Meehan
U.S. House of Representatives



James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives



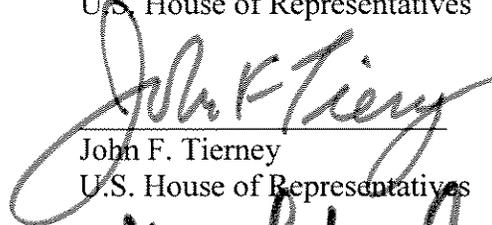
Michael E. Capuano
U.S. House of Representatives



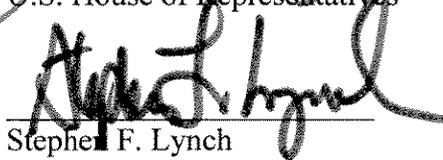
John W. Olver
U.S. House of Representatives



William D. Delahunt
U.S. House of Representatives



John F. Tierney
U.S. House of Representatives



Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives