

Acadia Center ● Adirondack Mountain Club ● Alliance for a Green Economy ●
 Alliance for Clean Energy New York ● Association for Energy Affordability ● Campaign for Renewable Energy ●
 Catskill Mountainkeeper ● Center for Social Inclusion ● Citizen Action of New York ●
 Citizens Campaign for the Environment ● Citizens for Local Power ● Clean Air Coalition of Western New York ●
 Communications Workers of America District One ● Delaware Riverkeeper Network ● Earthjustice ●
 Environment New York ● Environmental Advocates of New York ● Environmental Defense Fund ●
 Fossil Free Tompkins ● Long Island Progressive Coalition ● National Wildlife Federation ●
 Natural Resources Defense Council ● New York Working Families ● NYPIRG ● Pace Energy and Climate Center ●
 Partnership for Policy Integrity ● People's Climate Movement NY ● Protect the Adirondacks ● PUSH Buffalo ●
 Renewable Energy Long Island ● Riverkeeper ● Solar Seneca ● The Adirondack Council ●
 Union of Concerned Scientists

March 18, 2016

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
 Governor
 Executive Chamber
 New York State Capitol
 Albany, New York 12224

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
 Speaker
 New York State Assembly
 LOB 932
 Albany, New York 12248

Hon. John J. Flanagan
 Temporary President
 New York State Senate
 State Capitol Room 332
 Albany, New York 12247

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
 Democratic Conference Leader
 LOB Room 907
 Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Jeffrey Klein
 Senate IDC Leader
 LOB Room 913
 Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Brian Kolb
 Assembly Minority Leader
 LOB Room 933
 Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders:

As negotiations proceed on the 2016-2017 New York State Budget, we respectfully request the adoption of a final spending plan that avoids repurposing climate pollution funds raised through New York's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). New York State is implementing climate policies that set an example for the nation and the world, and a budget that raids RGGI proceeds is inconsistent with, and in fact would undermine, those efforts.

We are strongly opposed to proposals advanced in the Executive Budget and the Senate and Assembly resolutions that would divert a significant amount of RGGI funds to the state budget, including \$23 million for tax credits that would otherwise be supported by the General Fund and the Senate's \$100 million intended to subsidize the operations of certain nuclear power plants. The remaining \$15 million would be dedicated to a workforce development program. While we support clean energy workforce training, such programs should be supported sustainably in the General Fund, not by a one-time reshuffling of funds from NYSERDA. Taken together, these sweeps eclipse the entire amount of funding allocated for the programs supported in the current RGGI operating plan.

The wise stewardship of RGGI funds has ensured the deployment and use of renewable energy and efficiency initiatives. Utilizing RGGI resources to supplant funding for items in the state budget significantly limits the state's ability to support existing programs, like Green Jobs Green New York, or new initiatives aimed at incentivizing zero emission vehicles—policy priorities reflected in the budgets advanced by the Legislature.

New York State has the potential to establish itself as the true climate leader our nation needs. A critical first step will be adopting a budget that prioritizes climate action and does not repurpose RGGI proceeds. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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