



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

September 12, 2018

Transportation and Climate Initiative  
c/o Vicki Arroyo  
Executive Director, Georgetown Climate Center  
Georgetown Law  
600 New Jersey Ave  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Arroyo,

How we get around is evolving rapidly. New mobility solutions are changing the way we move across our cities. The advent of autonomous, connected, electric, and shared vehicles is changing the nature of transportation and bringing unique opportunities to address congestion, increase mobility, reduce pollution, and decrease costs. That is why I am excited to write to you today to launch Virginia's participation in the Transportation & Climate Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States (TCI).

The transportation sector is Virginia's largest source of greenhouse gases. In addition, this sector is a large source of NOx and ozone pollution, which directly impact public health. Through Governor Northam's leadership, Virginia is committed to strong climate action. The Trump Administration's abandonment of the Paris Climate Agreement and its reckless rollback of core environmental protections makes subnational collaboration and coordination to mitigate climate change more important than ever.

Transportation systems are not constrained by political boundaries and making meaningful progress on reducing transportation pollution will require regional action. By joining the Under2 Coalition, the US Climate Alliance, and working to promulgate a rule linking us with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Virginia has demonstrated its commitment to state and regional leadership and we are ready to join TCI to build a model of regional leadership to improve transportation and reduce pollution.

Virginia is fully committed to TCI's founding principles and shared values. I am joined in signing this letter by Governor Northam's Secretary of Transportation and his Secretary of Commerce & Trade. We support the attached TCI Declaration of Intent and will instruct the agencies we oversee to work in collaboration with each other and with their counterparts across the region to achieve our shared vision.

We support the efforts of TCI member states to explore policy approaches to create a regional low-carbon transportation system to meet today's and tomorrow's challenges. Virginia has closely followed the public conversation that TCI initiated to explore those approaches and gain input on strategies. We agree that a regional solution that reflects the regional nature of the transportation system will be more beneficial to residents and businesses, and we look forward to participating in the development of those solutions.

Leading a coordinated and comprehensive approach to climate change is an important priority for Governor Northam. We must take meaningful action to do our part to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, better prepare Virginia residents and institutions for climate impacts, and help Virginia transition to a clean energy economy. The Governor's commitment to bold climate action builds on significant recent actions the Commonwealth has taken toward addressing carbon pollution.

In the absence of federal leadership on climate change, we must continue to do more.

The Georgetown Climate Center continues to be a vital partner in our efforts and I am grateful for the assistance your team has provided Virginia as we work to develop a carbon rule to enable us to link with RGGI. I know your work to facilitate TCI has been instrumental in the success of the collaboration and we are look forward to expanding our work with you and supporting TCI's membership through our participation.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Strickler  
Secretary of Natural Resources



Shannon Valentine  
Secretary of Transportation



Brian Ball  
Secretary of Commerce & Trade