

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

Thank you for your efforts to address the challenge of reducing harmful carbon emissions that are jeopardizing human health and threatening our environment. We were pleased to see your agency recently propose standards under the Clean Air Act for new power plants, and we applaud your commitment to develop standards for reducing emissions from existing power plants. As the federal representatives for the nine states that participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, we urge you to work with our states as you develop standards for existing power plants.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative effort among our nine states—Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont—to cap and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector. Since 2005, carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in the RGGI region have decreased by more than 40 percent. By 2020, estimates show that carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in our states will be half of what they were in 2005. The RGGI states have locked in these reductions and generated a cumulative total of more than \$1.4 billion through quarterly competitive CO₂ allowance auctions. The majority of these receipts have been reinvested into individual state programs for energy efficiency, direct energy bill assistance, and climate change adaptation planning to further support the regional clean energy economy.

As the first market-based regulatory program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we believe that RGGI and our states offer a unique perspective that will be beneficial to your efforts. We urge you to use the RGGI experience as a benchmark for what is possible on a national level, and to work with RGGI to develop a flexible national standard that will significantly reduce carbon emissions while encouraging regional cooperation and providing equitable treatment for states that have been leading the way on this issue.

We thank you for your attention to our request, and look forward to working with you on this and other efforts to protect our environment and our health.

Sincerely,



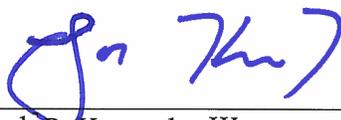
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



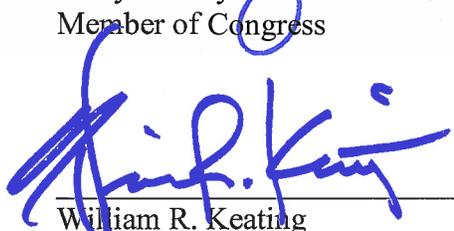
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



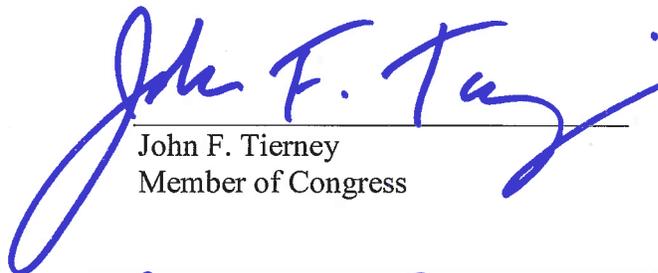
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



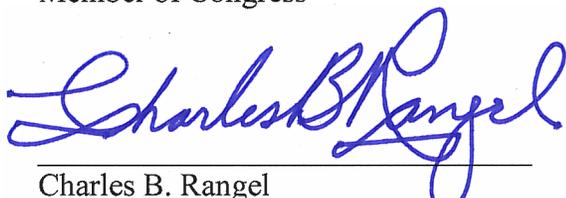
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
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William R. Keating
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



John Carney
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
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Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



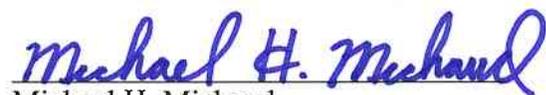
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



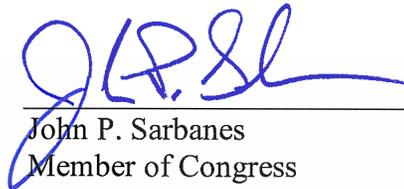
John Delaney
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



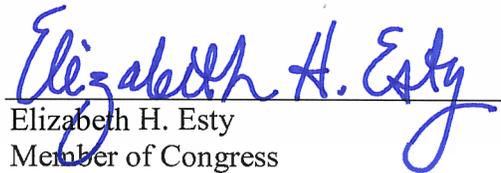
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



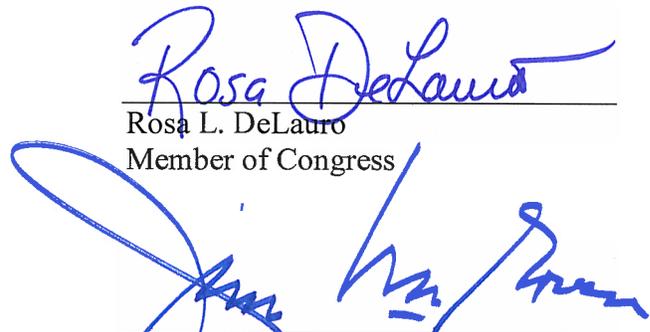
Chris Van Hollen
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Elizabeth H. Esty
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John B. Larson
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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Carol Shea-Porter
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James P. McGovern
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Joe Courtney
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Eliot L. Engel
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Richard E. Neal
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



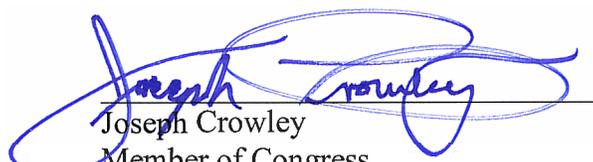
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



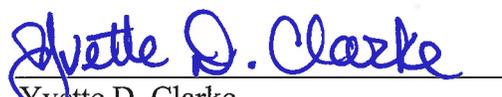
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



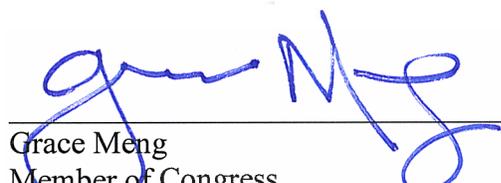
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



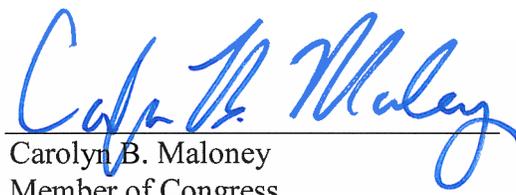
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



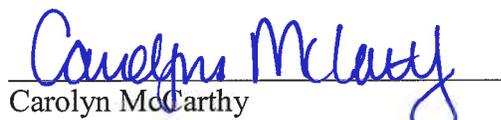
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress