

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **“NY for TCI” Advocates and Businesses Urge Gov. Cuomo to Lead on Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)**

*Leading voices from across the state highlight the once in a generation opportunity to transform New York’s transportation through an ambitious and equitable TCI program.*

**New York, NY** - Health, transportation, environment, business, and clean energy groups from across New York State are urging Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign a regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with neighboring states to establish an ambitious and equitable Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) program that would make the state’s transportation healthier, more equitable, sustainable, affordable, and accessible. [The letter from 70 New York organizations](#) that have launched the “NY for TCI” campaign notes the proposed TCI “cap-and-invest” program would limit and reduce carbon pollution from transportation fuels like gasoline and diesel and invest in communities to provide better, cleaner, and safer transportation options. A final MOU committing to the TCI program will be released by participating states in the next few weeks.

As New York grapples with major funding shortfalls for mass transit, and in the wake of the United States formally leaving the Paris Climate Agreement, there is an urgent need for state leadership to cut transportation pollution and identify new transportation funding sources. New York’s nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) calls for a net-zero emissions economy by 2050, yet without significant new programs to transform the transportation sector--the state’s largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and a major source of health damaging local air pollution--those goals will be out of reach.

The proposed TCI program would help tackle these and other critical challenges. As the letter to Gov. Cuomo states, **“By signing onto an ambitious and equitable regional TCI program with neighboring states, you can accelerate our state’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and help New York build back stronger with good family-sustaining green jobs while protecting the long-term health and well-being of our communities.”**

“By requiring oil companies to cut and pay for the pollution they cause,” the TCI program is projected to generate up to \$1.4 billion per year over the next decade for New York to invest in innovative transportation programs, including complete streets safe for walking, biking, and rolling; modern and resilient infrastructure; safe, convenient, reliable, and affordable public transportation, including in rural areas and for people with disabilities; accessible transportation options that meet or exceed the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act; affordable, equitable housing near job and transit centers; clean electric school buses, transit buses, cars, and trucks; and improved access to broadband to enable telecommuting, increase access to services, and help reduce the need to drive.

Under the CLCPA, historically marginalized communities, such as environmental justice and low-income communities, in New York must receive at least 35 percent of the investment benefits from TCI. The letter signers further urge New York and its regional partners to “adopt strong safeguards and standards to ensure the TCI program advances equitable and sustainable transportation solutions,” including commitments to enhanced outreach to disadvantaged communities; continuous reporting, monitoring, transparency, and improvement to ensure the TCI program achieves equitable and sustainable outcomes; and strong labor and workforce development standards to ensure a just transition.

The letter to Governor Cuomo closes with: **“We urge you to seize this opportunity by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with other governors by the end of 2020 that commits New York to the implementation of an ambitious equitable and sustainable TCI program that will help us build the transportation future New Yorkers want and need. We also urge you to continue to develop and implement other complementary state programs for equitable and sustainable transportation that will benefit New Yorkers and accelerate this important transformation. Excelsior!”**

The letter to Governor Cuomo is available at <https://bit.ly/3fscFZ6>.

The 70 groups signing the letter are: Adirondack North Country Association, Advanced Energy Economy, Alliance for Clean Energy New York, AlphaStruxure, American Lung Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Aztech Geothermal, Bedford 2020, Bedford 2030, Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition, CALSTART, Capital District EV Drivers, Center for Sustainable Energy, Ceres, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Citizens for Local Power, Citizens for Regional Transit, Citizens’ Climate Lobby / Citizens’ Climate Education, Climate Change Awareness & Action, Climate Reality Project New York State Coalition, Climate Smart Kingston Commission, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, ColorBrightonGreen.org, Concerned Health Professionals of NY, Dandelion, Drive Electric Long Island, E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), East Coast Greenway Alliance, Eileen Fisher, Electric Auto Association, Emerald Alternative Energy Solutions, Inc., Energy Conservation Services, Inc., Environmental Defense Fund, Farmingdale State College, Frack Action, Get Your GreenBack Tompkins, GObike Buffalo, Health Care Without Harm, HRP Green, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., Hudson Valley Regional Council, Kingston Citizens, League of Women Voters of New York, Miller/Howard Investments, Natural Resources Defense Council, Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow (NEST), New Paltz Climate Action, New York Communities for

Change, New York League of Conservation Voters, New York Solar Energy Society, New York Sustainable Business Council, New Yorkers for Clean Power, Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, Physicians for Social Responsibility New York, Plug In America, Regional Plan Association, Renewable Energy & Sustainability Center at Farmingdale State College, Riders Alliance, Rochester People's Climate Coalition, RUPCO, Schneider Electric, SunCommon, Sustainable Hudson Valley, Sustainable Westchester, Transit Center, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, U.S. Green Building Council Long Island Chapter, Unilever, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, and YSG Solar.

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*NY for TCI includes leading voices in health, transportation, environment, business, and clean energy working together to achieve an equitable and sustainable TCI program. To learn more about NY for TCI, visit [www.nyfortci.org](http://www.nyfortci.org).*