

## *US House Passes Paris Agreement Legislation; Climate Action in the States*

Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act, to affirm the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement. While the President vowed to pull the US out of the agreement in June 2017, no nation can formally withdraw before November 2020. The bill prohibits the use of federal funds to take any action withdrawing the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement. It also requires the administration to develop and publish a plan for the U.S. to meet the agreement's pollution reduction goals.

Amongst the amendments that were debated is a recognition of state and local leadership. Offered by Representative Rouda, the amendment states: "American cities, States, and businesses are stepping up and pledging to meet the Paris Agreement goals in the wake of absent and uncertain United States Federal Leadership."

The CONEG Governors continue their strong commitment to climate actions. Below are some of the recent actions of their ongoing climate leadership:

- Massachusetts Governor Baker Testifies on Climate Change Before The House Committee on Natural Resources
- Governor Lamont Signs Order Directing State Agencies to Reduce Energy Consumption and Environmental Impacts
- New England Governors' Commitment to Regional Cooperation on Energy Issues
- Governor Mills Introduces Bill to Establish Maine Climate Council
- Governor Mills expresses support for NEG/ECP Climate Change Resolutions
- Governor Raimondo's 1,000 by 2020 Clean Energy Goal
- Governor Phil Scott Pushes Decarbonization
- Governor Cuomo Announces Green New Deal Included in 2019 Executive Budget
- Governor Sununu Releases a Ten Year Energy Plan
- CONEG Policy Resolutions Shaping State and Federal Action

The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers have also committed to actions surrounding climate change. Some of those recent actions include resolutions around implementing adaptation strategies to ensure building resilience into infrastructure; a regional climate action plan which presents a clear long-term vision for regional greenhouse gas emissions reductions; a long-standing history of proactively working together to anticipate, respond, and adapt to a changing climate; and they have shown international leadership through their collective action to address environmental protection and climate change. More information about the work of the NEG/ECP and their relevant committees is available on our website at <https://www.coneg.org/neg-ecp/>.

