

June 2, 2017

Regardless of the administration's recent decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, the Northeast states will continue to build on their successful efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance clean energy technologies while creating quality jobs and growing the economy. The Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) supports our states' continued role as leaders in the nation's efforts to combat climate change and reach the United States' readily achievable goal of reducing carbon emission 26-28 percent below 2005 levels.

The CONEG region is comprised of seven states with a total population of 33 million, and accounts for 13% of the nation's GDP. Our states continue to see first-hand the devastating impacts of climate change including rising sea levels, severe storms, devastating flooding and extended droughts. The economic costs of these worsening events has been staggering.

The Northeast states have built a strong, diverse, and united partnership. Robust renewable energy goals combined with collaboration with the federal government and our Canadian partners have produced progressive environmental and economic success for the region.

We will continue to work with other states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through efforts such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) which has invested more than \$1.3 billion in RGGI auction proceeds to support energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas reductions and consumer energy bill assistance.

We will serve as innovative leaders to set achievable goals to mitigate GHG emissions and adapt to climate change through efforts such as the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

We will continue to lead groundbreaking clean energy initiatives such as tapping into the massive potential of wind energy with the nation's first offshore wind farm off Block Island, Rhode Island and New York's comprehensive energy strategy, Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) to name just a few. CONEG states are consistently recognized by national organizations for leading by example through their successful environmental and energy efficient programs and policies.

We may not know the immediate impact of the administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, but we do know that as a region, our longstanding partnership and collaboration will continue to protect the environment and advance a clean energy future while creating new jobs, growing the economy and boosting America's economic competitiveness.



Jay Lucey
Executive Director