

February 18, 2019

TO: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, 97301

FROM: Hans West
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Chairs Dembrow and Powers, Members of the Committee,

With my two minutes, I would like to briefly summarize climate actions in states other than Oregon, actions that we have not talked about in this committee setting. I will pass on discussing California's C&T system, WCI, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

As it turns out, Oregon is actually part of a growing effort by multiple states to alter the status quo. This [page on priceoncarbon.org](http://priceoncarbon.org) is a good source of information about these efforts.

Let me begin with the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration of **12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia** that seeks to improve transportation, develop the clean energy economy and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. This initiative was launched in 2010.

On 12/18/19, the Boston Globe announced that nine TCI members had agreed to **create a system to impose regionwide limits on transportation emissions**, the nation's largest source of carbon pollution. Six of these states are members of RGGI— Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The other members are Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington, D.C. RGGI members New York and Maine are also expected to sign on. With that addition, the coalition would constitute more than one-fifth of the nation's population and a quarter of the country's overall economic output, rivaling Japan as the world's third largest economy. Under the agreement, announced on 12/18/18, the states have one year to develop a RGGI like framework that caps the region's overall transportation emissions and requires fuel distributors in those states to buy pollution permits for some of the carbon they produce.

Another important group is the U.S. climate Alliance. This is a bipartisan coalition of 20 governors committed to reducing GHG emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. The alliance has three Core Principals and each member state commits to three actions:

1. Implement policies that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025

2. Track and report progress to the global community in appropriate settings, including when the world convenes to take stock of the Paris Agreement, and

3. Accelerate new and existing policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.

Finally, I would like to mention 4 states that appear to be in situations akin to that in Oregon. They are Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Hawaii. All 4 governors are members of the US Climate Initiative, and the first 3 states are members of RGGI and TCI. Their legislatures are controlled by Democrats and carbon pricing of CO₂ emissions is a priority for the governors and legislators.

Thanks to all the Committee members for their work on this important issue.