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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND
ENERGY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

January 14, 2020

Andrew McKeon, Executive Director
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives, Inc.
90 Church Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. McKeon,

I am writing you today as the Chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives regarding our Governor's recent announcement attempting to begin the lengthy process of "joining" or "linking to" the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Allow me to state simply and unequivocally: Governor Wolf lacks the unilateral authority to join RGGI. In order to do so, he must seek permission from the General Assembly under the laws of our Commonwealth. Just as almost all of the states that make up RGGI have joined by enacting statutes, Pennsylvania law requires that in order for the Governor to execute a carbon cap-and-trade program such as RGGI, explicit approval is required from our Commonwealth's legislative branch.

Welcoming Pennsylvania into your ranks without legislative approval would be foolish and harmful both to RGGI and our Commonwealth. If the Governor proceeds in attempting to finalize participation in RGGI without legislative approval, legal action will inevitably and quickly ensue. This will leave both RGGI and Pennsylvania in an unwelcome state of limbo. It will complicate RGGI's administration and likely take years to resolve. You will not be able to count on Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI, but you will have to expend time and resources planning for it, nonetheless.

Pennsylvania's current Governor has a history of overstepping his authority. Pennsylvania's General Assembly has been fighting hard to stop him from doing so since he took office, to prevent him from harming the interests of our citizens. You can rest assured that we will do so again this time if the Governor illegally joins or links with RGGI. Bipartisan and bicameral discussions and efforts are already well underway aimed at halting this action.

Pennsylvania has a rogue Governor. If you allow him to move forward without legislative approval, RGGI will undoubtedly incur significant costs involved with the ensuing litigation. These are costs that would presumably be paid by the taxpayers of the existing member states.

Andrew McKeon, Executive Director
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I respectfully request that you do not move forward with completing Pennsylvania's proposed entry into RGGI, unless and until Governor Wolf obtains proper authority, by legislative action of the General Assembly, to link our Commonwealth with RGGI. If this does not occur, legal action will follow.

Sincerely,

Daryl D. Metcalfe
Chairman, House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

CC: RGGI, Inc. 2020 Executive Committee