

FRANK PALLONE, JR.

6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3006

July 11, 2014

Governor Chris Christie
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie,

I write today regarding our country's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. In June, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule that aims to reduce carbon emissions from existing U.S. power plants by 30 percent by the year 2030. This rule, once finalized, will be a crucial aspect of America's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and address climate change.


I am deeply disappointed with your decision to pursue withdrawal from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which has been extremely effective in participating states. Investments of RGGI auction proceeds to date are projected to return more than \$2 billion in lifetime energy bill savings to more than 3 million participating households and more than 12,000 businesses in the region. Once finalized, the EPA rule will require states to develop plans to meet emissions reduction goals set by the agency. Remaining in RGGI will be the most effective and efficient way for New Jersey to meet the EPA carbon standards.

The World Bank released a report in 2012 on the potential effects of increasing average temperatures by 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century. This type of increase is well within the range of possibility if we don't act. The impacts of this level of warming would be devastating. Sea levels would be over three feet higher, inundating coastal communities.

New Jerseyans know firsthand what the cost of climate change is. If we do not start taking the prospect of climate change seriously, devastating storms like Superstorm Sandy will become the new normal. Climate change leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, duration and timing of extreme weather and climate events, and can result in unprecedented extreme weather and climate events. This increases beach erosion, storm-surge damage and flooding for the many coastal communities in New Jersey.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to withdraw from RGGI. Instead of walking away from this regional program, New Jersey should work with the other Northeast states that are members of RGGI to reduce carbon emissions and spur investments in clean energy technologies. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

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