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**Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation
Authority**

**Pennsylvania State Senate
Environmental Resources & Energy Committee
& Transportation Committee**

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As the recently appointed General Manager for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), I am pleased to submit comments for consideration at today's joint public hearing on Pennsylvania's participation in a multi-state plan aimed at lowering greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

SEPTA commends the Chairs and members of the Environmental & Energy Resources and Transportation Committees for hosting this hearing on the potential for the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. SEPTA has been closely following the development of the TCI, as well as Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a similar effort focused on reducing pollutants from the power sector.

As lawmakers consider issues related to joining TCI and RGGI, transit should be at the forefront of Pennsylvania's emission-reduction investment strategy. Other competitor states to Pennsylvania are actively considering these frameworks as a way of making significant investments in mass transit.

Transit is a proven reducer of emissions, and leveraging the TCI and RGGI frameworks to invest in transit will produce environmental dividends that quickly and effectively achieve carbon-reduction goals. A report from U.S. Energy Information Administration found that at 28 percent, transportation is now the leading source of carbon emissions in the United States, exceeding emissions from the power sector, buildings and industry. But in Philadelphia, transportation represents only 17 percent of emissions. This differential reflects the emissions-reducing power of a comprehensive transit network.

Transit is inherently sustainable. In Southeastern Pennsylvania, transit is a net reducer of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, the most recent year of emissions data available, SEPTA offset 784,492 tons of carbon emissions. Fewer cars and dense land uses supports a low-carbon transportation system rivaled by only a select handful of U.S. metro areas. Lower driving rates are part of the culture in this region, and they are a testament to SEPTA's emission-reducing power.

SEPTA's award-winning Sustainability Program continues to deepen this environmental dividend by reducing SEPTA's own emissions. The program is paced by recent investments in 10 megawatts of energy storage at substations along the Market-Frankford and Broad Street Lines, 3 megawatts of solar photovoltaic panels on the roofs of four SEPTA facilities, and a fleet of 25 zero-emission battery-electric buses now operating on two routes in South Philadelphia. With 10 more battery-electric buses planned, SEPTA will have the largest zero-emission bus fleet on the east coast.

Transit investments not only reduce emissions but also create jobs, grow the economy, and improve quality of life. Over the past five years, SEPTA has procured nearly \$1.4 billion in goods and services from companies in 40 Pennsylvania counties. With greater transit investment leveraged through TCI and RGGI, SEPTA's economic impact will grow along with its efforts to help achieve carbon-reduction goals. Please consider SEPTA a partner in your deliberations and cross-sector efforts to improve environmental conditions for future generations of Pennsylvanians. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important topic.