



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Amal Mahrouki, Director of Legislative Affairs at AIA PA, 717.856.0841

Sharon Pillar, PA Consultant for Environmental Entrepreneurs, 412.215.5995

Katie Bartolotta, Policy and Program Director at GBU, 215.399.5789

Julian Boggs, Policy Director at KEEA, 215.910.4790

HARRISBURG: On June 9th, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed HB 2025, which seeks to block the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from developing an emissions trading program that could link to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

A widely successful program across nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, RGGI caps power plant emissions, requires power plants to pay for their emissions, and reinvests those payments in energy efficiency and other programs. These investments are proven to help all consumers save energy and save money while growing states' economies.

Representatives from AIA Pennsylvania, Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), Green Building United, and invite the legislature to a balanced conversation about effective policies that could jump-start Pennsylvania's economy in the wake of COVID-19.

"Instead of prioritizing legislation that will surely face a veto, the House of Representatives should instead focus on how to most effectively invest proceeds from RGGI," said Julian Boggs, Policy Director for KEEA. "Now more than ever, Pennsylvania needs to increase investment in energy efficiency to recover and continue to grow our economy."

"We've seen firsthand the quantifiable savings of dollars and greenhouse gas emissions that RGGI brings," said Katie Bartolotta, Policy and Programs Director for Green Building United. "Pennsylvania should welcome the opportunity to join RGGI to save consumers money, stimulate our economy, and improve our environment and public health."

"RGGI investments in programs to help non-profits, schools, and under-resourced communities would expand the benefits of clean energy to more Pennsylvanians and could provide a critical boost to a growing renewable energy industry," said Sharon Pillar, PA Consultant for E2. "If we combine RGGI with an extension and expansion of Pennsylvania's Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard, clean energy is poised to be a jobs engine for Pennsylvania."

"The leadership and membership of AIA Pennsylvania has committed to the 2030 Challenge on Sustainability," said Amal Mahrouki, Director of Legislative Affairs for AIA Pennsylvania. "We believe that RGGI will help to create a better and more sustainable built environment. We look forward to an open dialogue with legislators about this program and others like it. We support programs like RGGI that benefit the triple bottom of people, profits, and the planet."

Clean energy – energy efficiency, renewable energy, storage, and clean transportation – accounted for nearly 91,000 Pennsylvania jobs in 2019, but in March and April 2020, more than 20,000 of these jobs were lost due to COVID-19. According to the DEP, the value of RGGI proceeds in Pennsylvania could reach \$300 million or



AIA
Pennsylvania



more annually. Investing these proceeds into energy efficiency and renewable energy projects would deliver economic recovery and growth, create local jobs, and save Pennsylvanians money on utility bills.

Legislation that invests the proceeds from RGGI into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs will speed the economic recovery, particularly in areas that have experienced and are threatened by market-driven power plant closures. AIA PA, E2, GBU, and KEEA stand ready to collaborate on such a policy, which will put the Commonwealth back to work.

Founded in 1909, AIA Pennsylvania is the state-wide component of The American Institute of Architects. AIA Pennsylvania, headquartered in Harrisburg, is governed by a Board of Directors representing eight local AIA chapters across the Commonwealth. Our Association serves over 2,900 members.

Environmental Entrepreneurs is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital. For more information, see www.e2.org or follow us on Twitter at @e2org.

Green Building United, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is committed to promoting sustainable building in Greater Philadelphia, the Lehigh Valley and Delaware. Through education and advocacy, Green Building United aims to create a sustainable, healthy and resilient built environment for all.

KEEA is Pennsylvania's trade association for the energy efficiency industry. Our membership, comprised of seventy companies, ranges from small local firms to large multinational corporations and operates across the value chain of energy efficiency. We engage our membership and key policymakers in support of an industry that accounts for more than 71,000 Pennsylvania jobs. The policy we promote at the state and local level expands the market for energy efficiency.