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**Clean Energy Coalition Commends Virginia Department of Environmental Quality on Proposed Emissions Trading Regulation**

Washington, DC – The Business Council for Sustainable Energy has submitted comments to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in support of its proposed regulation to establish an emissions trading scheme in the Commonwealth. The Council commends the DEQ and the Northam administration for moving forward on this important effort to take advantage of clean energy technologies, curb emissions, and grow Virginia's economy. BCSE President Lisa Jacobson said:

“The Council is pleased that Virginia is moving forward with a regulation to establish an emissions trading program. The Council supports market-based mechanisms that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because these programs offer a range of benefits, including emission reductions, clean energy development, and economic growth.

“A regulation to reduce and cap carbon dioxide through a multi-state trading program like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) makes sense for Virginia citizens and businesses. National data shows that the energy sector can reduce emissions while keeping costs low. Virginia is well positioned to build on these trends through an emissions trading program that incentivizes the use of cleaner energy resources that promote economic development and job creation in the Commonwealth.”

In its comments, the Council encouraged DEQ to consider the following:

- BCSE supports the DEQ's proposal to distribute allowances to sources using an updating output-based allocation structure.
- DEQ should encourage the use of set asides granted to DMME to support of the full suite of clean energy technologies, including both supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency measures.
- RGGI states have benefitted from investing the multiyear funding from auction proceeds in clean energy, and BCSE encourages DEQ to consider a larger set aside amount, if feasible.

The Council's full comments are available [here](#).

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*BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes investor-owned utilities, public power, independent power producers, project developers, equipment manufacturers, and environmental and energy market service providers. Established in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. For more information on the Council, please visit: [www.bcse.org](http://www.bcse.org) and download [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook 2018](#) edition for the latest industry information.*

