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July 13, 2020

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**BCSE Congratulates Virginia on Joining Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**  
*State Implements Plans to Reduce Emissions, Support Economic Recovery*

Washington, DC – Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) President Lisa Jacobson made the following statement on the completion of Virginia’s emissions trading regulation and its entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI):

“The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is heartened to see Virginia acting rapidly on its commitment to a clean energy economy by joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The Council supports market-based mechanisms that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and RGGI has been an effective cooperative effort.

“The decision to send revenues from the allowance auctions to programs that will improve the state’s climate resilience and energy efficiency will support the return of local jobs, in addition to addressing climate change. Virginia lost over 12,000 clean energy jobs since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, mostly in the energy efficiency sector.

“Despite short-term challenges, the clean energy sector is built on a strong foundation. State and regional policies that support the clean energy sector lead to positive outcomes on climate change mitigation and local jobs and industry.”

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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 the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) for the latest industry information.*