## CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION COMMON INTEREST AGREEMENT

This Common Interest Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by the undersigned Attorneys General of the States, Commonwealths, and Territories (the "Parties") who are interested in advancing their common legal interests in limiting climate change and ensuring the dissemination of accurate information about climate change. The Parties mutually agree:

- 1. <u>Common Legal Interests</u>. The Parties share common legal interests with respect to the following topics: (i) potentially taking legal actions to compel or defend federal measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions, (ii) potentially conducting investigations of representations made by companies to investors, consumers and the public regarding fossil fuels, renewable energy and climate change, (iii) potentially conducting investigations of possible illegal conduct to limit or delay the implementation and deployment of renewable energy technology, (iv) potentially taking legal action to obtain compliance with federal and state laws governing the construction and operation of fossil fuel and renewable energy infrastructure, or (v) contemplating undertaking one or more of these legal actions, including litigation ("Matters of Common Interest").
- 2. <u>Shared Information</u>. It is in the Parties' individual and common interests to share documents, mental impressions, strategies, and other information regarding the Matters of Common Interest and any related investigations and litigation ("Shared Information"). Shared Information shall include (1) information shared in organizing a meeting of the Parties on March 29, 2016, (2) information shared at and after the March 29 meeting, pursuant to an oral common interest agreement into which the Parties entered at the meeting and renewed on April 12, 2016, and (3) information shared after the execution of this Agreement.
- 3. <u>Legends on Documents</u>. To avoid misunderstandings or inadvertent disclosure, all documents exchanged pursuant to this Agreement should bear the legend "Confidential Protected by Common Interest Privilege" or words to that effect. However, the inadvertent failure to include such a legend shall not waive any privilege or protection available under this Agreement or otherwise. In addition, any Party may, where appropriate, also label documents exchanged pursuant to this Agreement with other appropriate legends, such as, for example, "Attorney-Client Privileged" or "Attorney Work Product." Oral communications among the Parties shall be deemed confidential and protected under this Agreement when discussing Matters of Common Interest.
- 4. <u>Non-Waiver of Privileges</u>. The exchange of Shared Information among Parties—including among Parties' staff and outside advisors—does not diminish in any way the privileged and confidential nature of such information. The Parties retain all applicable privileges and claims to confidentiality, including the attorney client privilege, work product privilege, common interest privilege, law enforcement privilege, deliberative process privilege and exemptions from disclosure under any public records laws that may be asserted to protect against disclosure of Shared Information to non-Parties (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Privileges").

- 5. <u>Nondisclosure</u>. Shared Information shall only be disclosed to: (i) Parties; (ii) employees or agents of the Parties, including experts or expert witnesses; (iii) government officials involved with the enforcement of antitrust, environmental, consumer protection, or securities laws who have agreed in writing to abide by the confidentiality restrictions of this Agreement; (iv) criminal enforcement authorities; (v) other persons, provided that all Parties consent in advance; and (vi) other persons as provided in paragraph 6. A Party who provides Shared Information may also impose additional conditions on the disclosure of that Shared Information. Nothing in this Agreement prevents a Party from using the Shared Information for law enforcement purposes, criminal or civil, including presentation at pre-trial and trial-related proceedings, to the extent that such presentation does not (i) conflict with other agreements that the Party has entered into, (ii) interfere with the preservation of the Privileges, or (iii) conflict with court orders and applicable law.
- 6. <u>Notice of Potential Disclosure</u>. The Parties agree and acknowledge that each Party is subject to applicable freedom of information or public records laws, and nothing in this Agreement is intended to alter or limit the disclosure requirements of such laws. If any Shared Information is demanded under a freedom of information or public records law or is subject to any form of compulsory process in any proceeding ("Request"), the Party receiving the Request shall: (i) immediately notify all other Parties (or their designees) in writing; (ii) cooperate with any Party in the course of responding to the Request; and (iii) refuse to disclose any Shared Information unless required by law.
- 7. <u>Inadvertent Disclosure</u>. If a Party discloses Shared Information to a person not entitled to receive such information under this Agreement, the disclosure shall be deemed to be inadvertent and unintentional and shall not be construed as a waiver of any Party's right under law or this Agreement. Any Party may seek additional relief as may be authorized by law.
- 8. <u>Independently Obtained Information</u>. Provided that no disclosure is made of Shared Information obtained pursuant to this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement shall preclude a Party from (a) pursuing independently any subject matter, including subjects reflected in Shared Information obtained by or subject to this Agreement or (b) using or disclosing any information, documents, investigations, or any other materials independently obtained or developed by such Party.
- 9. <u>Related Litigation</u>. The Parties continue to be bound by this Agreement in any litigation or other proceeding that arises out of the Matters of Common Interest.
- 10. <u>Parties to the Agreement</u>. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts. All potential Parties must sign for their participation to become effective.
- 11. <u>Withdrawal</u>. A Party may withdraw from this Agreement upon thirty days written notice to all other Parties. Withdrawal shall not terminate, or relieve the withdrawing Party of any obligation under this Agreement regarding Shared Information received by the withdrawing Party before the effective date of the withdrawal.
- 12. <u>Modification</u>. This writing is the complete Agreement between the Parties, and any modifications must be approved in writing by all Parties.

Dated: May /8, 2016

Michele Van Gelderen

Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Consumer Law Section

Office of Attorney General Kamala D. Harris

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Dated: May 3, 2016

Matthew I. Levine Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 55 Elm Street P.O. Box 120 Hartford, CT 06106 Dated: May 2 , 2016

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Dated: May 2, 2016

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From:

Gregory Schultz < gSchultz@riag.ri.gov>

Sent:

Friday, May 06, 2016 12:37 PM

To:

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Tania Maestas; Tannis Fox; Tim Nord; Wendy Morgan; William Grantham

Subject:

**Attachments:** 

Rhode Island Attorney General's Public Records Requests -- Climate Change Coalition Free Market Environmental Law Clinic Public Records Request Letter - 4-13-16.pdf; Free

Market Environmental Law Clinic Public Records Request Letter - 4-21-16.pdf

Pursuant to the Common Interest Agreement, the Rhode Island Attorney General provides notice that it has received the attached state Access to Public Records requests.

Greg

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## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:

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