

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE'S
PARTICIPATION IN A JOINT AMICUS BRIEF OPPOSING VIRGINIA'S
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation in 2020 through which Virginia joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); and

WHEREAS RGGI is a cooperative, market-based effort among eleven mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states designed to reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector; and

WHEREAS in Virginia, RGGI funds two important programs (The Housing Innovation Energy Efficiency Fund and the Community Flood Preparedness Fund) that have provided significant funding to local projects related to energy efficient low-income housing and to flood resilience planning; and

WHEREAS recognizing the importance of a clean energy future, the City of Charlottesville has consistently expressed its support for Virginia's participation in RGGI through the passing of a related Resolution in June 2015, participation in public comment opportunities in 2022 and 2023, and inclusion of a specific related action in the 2023 Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS the Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board (APCB) has voted to withdraw Virginia from RGGI, thus discontinuing revenue streams that are having a beneficial impact in Charlottesville and communities across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) recently filed a lawsuit in Fairfax County Circuit Court against the APCB and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) asserting that legislation cannot be undermined by administrative action; and

WHEREAS several Virginia localities are working together to file a joint amicus brief in support of SELC's lawsuit and to communicate the negative effect it will have on local communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the City Attorney is authorized to sign a joint amicus brief supporting the Southern Environmental Law Center's position opposing Virginia's withdrawal from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.