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**STATEMENT ON DELAWARE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE**

**By Arthur Stamoulis, Director of Government Affairs, Clean Air Council**

"This initiative is an extremely important step in the right direction on global warming, especially given the failure of leadership coming out of Washington. Delaware did the right thing by joining in on this effort.

"Power plants remain the nation's single largest source of global warming pollution. Insofar as this initiative can demonstrate the relative ease of reducing pollution from these plants, the program will have been a huge success.

"Clearly, people are ready to start tackling global warming emissions head on. Let's hope that the federal government will follow the states' lead on this issue. Mandatory federal policies with enforceable deadlines are critically needed in order to reduce pollution before irreversible harm is done to the country's health, economy and climate."

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BACKGROUND: On December 20, 2005, the governors of seven states signed an agreement to implement the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the first mandatory regional pact to reduce global warming pollution in the United States. The states that signed the agreement, which use a trading program to cap carbon dioxide emissions from power plants at 10% below 1990 levels by 2019, include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Vermont. For more information, visit: <http://www.rggi.org/agreement.htm>

*Clean Air Council is a regional environmental organization.*