## STATEMENT CONCERNING THE 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND EASTERN CANADIAN PREMIERS

WHEREAS, the Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers scheduled for Saint John, New Brunswick September 8 to 10, 2019 was cancelled due to the approach of Hurricane Dorian;

WHEREAS, the hurricane caused significant damage and fatalities in the Caribbean, eastern seaboard of the United States of America and Atlantic Canada;

WHEREAS, the 2019 Conference would have led to important conversations about regional collaboration on energy grid modernization, electric vehicles, energy diversification, cybersecurity, trade, and climate adaptation and disaster mitigation;

WHEREAS, Hurricane Dorian served as an important reminder of the importance of regional collaboration on climate change and adaptation, energy reliability and emergency preparedness and response, including through the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Governors and Premiers express their concern for all those affected by Hurricane Dorian and their appreciation to all emergency responders, for their perseverance and dedication in responding to the hurricane;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** governors and premiers remain committed to collaboration through the Conference, and by their efforts and those of the standing committees, steering committee and working groups will continue to advance issues of importance to the region;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** governors and premiers received the 2019 annual report from the International Emergency Management Group;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT governors and premiers have received the 2019 Report from the Transportation and Air Quality Committee on electric vehicles, and ask the committee to continue its work and to report back at the 2021 Conference summarizing progress in the development of a regional electric vehicle charging network, including a map of the existing and planned corridors and options governments may take to further increase the market penetration rate of alternative fuel vehicles;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Committee on the Environment and the Northeast International Committee on Energy, in collaboration with the Climate Change Steering Committee, continue their work to ensure that the region meets the reduction marker of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35 – 45% below 1990 levels by 2030;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers continue to include the business-to-business program in their annual conference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Governors and Premiers look forward to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in Connecticut, United States to continue their work on strengthening one of the world's largest economic blocs, through collaboration on trade, the environment, energy and other emerging issues important to the success of the region.

Adopted in lieu of the 2019 Annual Conference of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

Blaine Higgs

Premier of New Brunswick

Co-Chair

Janet Mills

Governor of Maine

Co-Chair