

CONEG Elects Governors Raimondo and Scott to Lead in 2017. Energy, opioids, and infrastructure dominate the discussion.

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Washington, D.C. – The Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) met in Washington, D.C. on February 26, 2017, for their annual winter meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to elect leadership and convene a roundtable discussion on energy, the opioids crisis, and infrastructure.

Through unanimous vote, the Governors elected Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo as Chair, and Vermont Governor Phil Scott as vice-chair, for 2017. *“I am honored to serve as the 2017 Chair of CONEG. As it has done for the past 40 years, CONEG has been a bipartisan coalition that promotes economic, social, and environmental growth for the Northeast. I look forward to working with my fellow Governors to advance our common goals around infrastructure, combatting opioids, and resiliency”* said Governor Raimondo. *“Vermont has long appreciated its membership in CONEG, as an opportunity to coordinate regional policy efforts. I’m excited to take on this leadership role, and collaborate with my colleagues to support shared environmental, infrastructure, and economic goals for the Northeast,”* said Governor Scott.

As part of CONEG’s ongoing efforts to promote regional energy strategies, the Governors had a wide-ranging discussion regarding affordability, energy infrastructure, and resiliency. The Governors also discussed the importance of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) on both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reinvesting in state economies.

The Governors emphasized the ongoing efforts to combat the opioid epidemic and furthering interstate strategies to limit prescriptions, share data, and deter drug trafficking across borders. With respect to infrastructure, the Governors highlighted the importance of connecting the region through rail transportation investments, the deployment of electric vehicles, and upgrades along the coastline and ports of the Northeast.

CONEG is a non-partisan association of the Northeast states. CONEG encourages intergovernmental cooperation on issues affecting the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Northeast. CONEG coordinates regional efforts by the Governors and their Administrations that benefit the Northeast.

CONEG members include Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo (CONEG Chair), Vermont Governor Phil Scott (CONEG Vice-Chair), Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, and Maine Governor Paul LePage.

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