ELM plays "David" to utilities' "Goliath"

You’ve heard the parable about David and Goliath. Sometimes it seems like a cliché. Sometimes it’s real. Despite the odds, some fights are worth the risk. ELM has a story to tell about standing up to bullies and coming out ahead.

One Monday morning in February, ELM’s phones started ringing. ELM Board members, corporate partners and donors were calling to ask about a set of yet to be published ads produced by ELM and the ELM Action Fund. It turned out the big utility in town had gotten wind of these ads and was trying to prevent their publication. Why? Because they shed light on an uncomfortable truth.

Eversource and Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) have been lobbying hard to convince the government and people of Massachusetts that we need more fracked gas. They want to protect potential billions

Continued on page 3

Holding government accountable

Tracking, informing, scoring government action on the environment

State legislators have a lot on their plates … education, health care, the economy … not to mention what’s for dinner. We understand that it’s hard to prioritize. That’s why ELM works to ensure that decision-makers understand the importance of the environment and its connection to a robust economy. We share information and updates on complex environmental issues. We seek their support for strong environmental laws and policies, and we keep an eye on them to see if they’re paying attention. Then we let you, the voters, know how they’re doing.

This year, ELM published 3 reports to track progress on environmental issues, indicate where work is needed and hold decision-makers accountable.

Green Budget

Endorsed by 75+ organizations, the Green Budget is an annual ELM publication that makes the case for the Commonwealth to invest in its environmental agencies. Joe Dorant, President of the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists, says it’s “a valuable tool that enables several different stakeholders to speak with one voice.” With only 0.6% of the state budget currently going to environmental programs, agencies can’t fulfill their missions. Our goal: allocate at least 1% of the state budget to the environment.

Continued on page 2
Clean Energy and Climate Scorecard
The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), established nation-leading goals in Massachusetts for reducing carbon emissions 25% by 2020, and 80% by 2050. ELM coordinates the Global Warming Solutions Project (GWSP), a coalition of stakeholders formed to ensure the GWSA targets are met. In February, we released a GWSP Climate Scorecard highlighting areas where the current administration is falling behind, while suggesting ways to reach our goals. The scorecard led to an important meeting with the Governor’s office where we made our case to the administration.

Key scorecard findings:
1) Mass. is not meeting its 2020 emissions reduction goals.
2) Hydropower imports alone won’t meet our goals. We need more solar and wind.
3) New gas pipelines are not needed and will make it impossible to meet our goals.
4) Transportation sector improvements can reduce emissions.
5) Intermediate emissions goals are urgently needed.

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Review
A mediocre “C.” That’s the grade EOEEA earned for its first year under Governor Baker. Though not a high grade, the review outlines areas for improvement and gives positive feedback where EOEEA is doing well.

The review reports on the following concerns:
1) Inadequate funding for environmental protection.
2) Understaffed environmental agencies exacerbated by early retirements.
3) Executive Order 562 requiring extensive regulatory review by already overburdened staff.
4) Policy decisions and lack of action especially in the areas of energy, toxics and water.
5) Stronger management at environmental agencies needed.

As these 3 reports indicate, there is a lot of hard work ahead for Massachussets. ELM stands ready to support the government in solving these critical challenges, but will be vocal when the government falls short.

See these documents and more in the Publications section at www.environmentalleague.org.

Dear Friend,
I hope you received the recent letter from me asking you to help with our spring appeal.

If you already gave, thank you so much for your important contribution to our mission. If not, there is still time to support the priorities and programs we share in this newsletter.

Just use the attached envelope to mail your gift or go online to www.environmentalleague.org/donate.

Every gift helps protect our environment now and into the future.

We will be tremendously grateful!

Sincerely,

George Bachrach, ELM President

The Environmental League of Massachusetts is committed to combating climate change and protecting our land, water and public health. By creating diverse alliances and building the power of the environmental community, we use our collective influence to ensure Massachusetts is a leader in environmental and economic sustainability.
ELM plays “David” to utilities’ “Goliath” CONTINUED

in profits they would enjoy from new pipeline development. ELM has been working to alert the public about what Massachusetts will lose if new pipelines are built. Our message has been consistent and strong: we must not allow billions of ratepayer dollars to be spent on massive pipeline infrastructure. It would be a costly detour on the route to clean energy, and would thwart state plans to meet our carbon reduction requirements. What’s more, the Commonwealth doesn’t need more gas. According to an independent study for the office of Attorney General Maura Healey, Massachusetts can meet its energy needs without big gas pipelines.

We explained to those who called that Eversource wanted to silence us simply because we were determined to call shareholders than their customers. ELM board members, donors, and friends rallied around us. We would not be silenced. Together with the ELM Action Fund, we went forward with 3 half-page ads in the Boston Globe and on MASsterList. The ads generated media coverage that brought additional attention to the issue.

“We’re proud of the campaign,” says George Bachrach, ELM President. “We won’t let the utilities and AIM distort the truth without being challenged. We won’t let the legislature act predicated on distortions. We won’t be bullied.”

When ELM, with a staff of 10, can scare big corporations like Eversource, it speaks volumes. They may have millions to spend on PR and lobbying, but we have something more powerful — the truth.

Pipeline update:
As we go to press we have learned that the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline has been suspended. This is an important victory but big utilities WILL continue to push for costly and unneeded pipelines like Access Northeast. The fight is far from over — keep posted on the latest news at www.environmentalleague.org
High scoring GOP lawmakers honored at reception

On February 2nd, ELM and the ELM Action Fund hosted a reception to recognize 6 Republican state lawmakers who have strongly supported environmental protection. Among their GOP colleagues they earned the highest scores last session in ELM’s Legislative Scorecard, which analyzed votes and bills sponsored.

L-R: Senator Bruce Tarr, Senator Don Humason, Representative Kim Ferguson, ELM Legislative Director Erica Mattison, Representative Donald Wong, Representative Angelo D’Emilia, and Representative Paul Frost celebrate at ELM’s Republican Reception.

You’re invited to our biggest bash of the year.

EARTH NIGHT 2016

Tuesday May 31st, 5:30-8:00PM
The Boston College Club
100 Federal Street, 36th Floor
Boston

Celebrate 20 years of Earth Night
Enjoy drinks, hors d’oeuvres and spectacular Boston views. Join the Massachusetts movers and shakers in creating a healthy environment and clean energy future.

Tickets start at $35 / elmearthnight2016.eventbrite.com
Sponsorships start at $500 / www.earthnight.org

OUR PARTNERS

ELM is the Massachusetts affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Together we work on efforts to combat climate change and to protect wildlife.

Through our partnership with EarthShare, employees at public and private orgs. can donate through workplace giving.

ELM is the Massachusetts affiliate of the national Wildlife Federation. Together we work on efforts to combat climate change and to protect wildlife.
ELM trains new generation of environmental activists

Leaders. Advocates. Change-makers. That’s what Massachusetts needs to protect its environment now and in the future.

From the Boy Scouts in 1918 who helped ELM save trees from Dutch Elm Disease, to ELM’s Young Environmentalist Program (YEP), we’ve always been committed to involving youth in our work.

This year we launched a new program to engage young people with our mission and advocacy efforts. The Environmental Fellows Program educates, trains and activates college students on pressing issues. With generous support from the Walmart Foundation, the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and others, we’re helping students develop skills to be effective environmental advocates.

The program kicked off in March, with 40 students from 15 colleges attending either 5 sessions in Boston or a full day in Worcester. They learned about advocacy techniques from ELM staff, legislators and their aides, and professional organizers.

“Hearing the insight of those who are currently active and successful in the field has given me the confidence to take steps forward in becoming an advocate.” — Alycia Steele / ELM Student Fellow from UMass Boston

Participants gained experience and insight. For example, they learned that Senators and Representatives will often pay attention to an issue when as few as 5 constituents contact them. Students were provided with postcards to share with their networks in support of funding priorities for state environmental programs and in support of clean energy. As a result, hundreds of postcards flowed into the statehouse from across the state.

Students also met with either their legislators or legislative aides to make the case for environmental protection, giving our new Environmental Fellows the confidence to directly communicate with their elected officials.

In a world where students are often overwhelmed with information about things they can’t fix, we believe inspiring hope and action is as important as knowing the facts.

Find more pictures from the spring Fellows Program at www.facebook.com/EnvironmentalLeagueOfMassachusetts
Jay Ash, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, meets with the ELM Corporate Council

At the March 15th ELM Corporate Council meeting Secretary Ash stressed that he and the Governor are committed to finding the most successful energy strategy for the Commonwealth. Members were able to voice concerns about the future of solar and wind in Massachusetts. Members also asked Secretary Ash how he planned to promote jobs in and around Boston. Secretary Ash reported that he, Secretary for Transportation Stephanie Pollack and Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton, are working together diligently on each of these issues.

THANK YOU CORPORATE COUNCIL

Aggregate Industries, Holcim  
Bank of America  
Biogen  
Blue Cross Blue Shield/MA  
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Costa Fruit and Produce  
Eastern Bank  

Energy Management  
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Legal Sea Foods  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Meredith Management  
Millipore Sigma  

Saunders Hotel Group  
Stop & Shop  
Trillium Asset Management  
Triumvirate Environmental  
Tufts Health Plan  
WasteZero  
Wynn-Everett Resorts  

Become a Corporate Council member

Members receive benefits including:

- Opportunities to meet with senior government officials
- Shared testimony and media communications on important public policies
- Publicity at all major ELM events
- ELM validation of members’ environmental leadership

Each member of the Corporate Council is a valuable partner in our work at ELM. Their innovative sustainability programs and environmental initiatives set an example for other businesses across the state. Their voices strengthen our message that we are more powerful together.

To receive more information about joining ELM’s Corporate Council contact Anne Meyer at ameyer@environmentalleague.org or 617-742-2553.
Pam Kohlberg helps ELM keep the environment out front

ELM President George Bachrach and Pam Kohlberg have known each other since they were teens. So when George came to ELM, he asked Pam for her support. Personal connections are a great way to bring in new donors, but according to Pam, “ELM is doing good work” and that is why she continues to give.

Pam's interest in the environment was planted early. She was “lucky to go to summer camp in Nevada, at the foothills of the Sierras,” exposing her to nature and natural treasures. Later, as a counselor, she enjoyed opening other young eyes. She loved taking city kids on their first hikes and remembers that one camper took a deep breath and said with amazement that the pines smelt like air freshener. “I had to explain that it was the other way around.”

These experiences shaped Pam’s future. She earned her Master’s degree from the Yale School of Forestry and has worked to protect the environment ever since — at federal and state agencies, as a consultant and as a board member and board chair for such organizations as the Massachusetts Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Education and access to nature remain important and represent the primary mission of Pam’s giving, but her concerns have grown since those days in Nevada. “At the risk of rattling off a laundry list, the number of important issues has multiplied. Climate resilience, water resource management, sustainable forestry, green jobs and environmental justice” are among global issues Pam follows. Locally, “renewable energy, green infrastructure, livable cities and stopping methane leaks are vitally important.”

Pam believes ELM plays an excellent role keeping the environment in front of policy makers. “There’s a perception that the environmental community is a multi-headed animal advocating for various positions.” By engaging corporate, labor and NGO partners, ELM helps bring a more unified voice. ELM “makes the message lucid and digestible” for candidates and decision-makers, while helping residents understand how legislators are voting.

Join the 1898 Society

It all started with threats to our forests.
Then came water and air pollution, endangered species, acid rain and now climate change.

What will tomorrow bring?

Since 1898, ELM has been working to protect the Massachusetts environment. You can help sustain this legacy, and join the ELM 1898 Society, by including us in your estate plans.

Gifts of any size will help ELM maintain its role as a strong advocate for the health of our environment.

Your simple decision today will allow us to respond to tomorrow’s challenges.

If you have already included ELM in your plans, we would love to welcome you into the 1898 Society.
Contact: development@environmentalleague.org.
More information: environmentalleague.org/donate.

George Bachrach says “Pam always deeply cared about our natural surroundings, and her quiet support for nonprofits like ELM makes a big difference.”
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