



May 2, 2024

The Honorable Jerald A. Parisella  
 House Chair, Joint Committee on  
 Economic Development and Emerging  
 Technologies  
 State House Room 42

The Honorable Barry R. Finegold  
 Senate Chair, Joint Committee on  
 Economic Development and Emerging  
 Technologies  
 State House Room 511A

Dear Chair Parisella, Chair Finegold, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your leadership and hard work as you consider **H.4459, Mass Leads: An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts' Economic Leadership**. As businesses and institutions with significant operations in Massachusetts, we are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of climate technology investments in the Legislature's economic development package this session.

Meeting the Commonwealth's ambitious and necessary climate and clean energy goals will require economy-wide action. However, it also represents a transformative opportunity to make Massachusetts the global epicenter of climatetech and innovation. We are poised to capitalize on historic levels of new federal resources and momentum. We applaud the Healey-Driscoll Administration's inclusion of the clean energy industry in its [economic development plan](#). We strongly encourage making this sector a centerpiece of our capital planning strategy in the coming decade. Through smart, targeted investments and incentive programs, we can use the lessons of the 2008 Life Sciences Initiative to make Massachusetts a national and international leader in another vital industry.

In particular, we express our support for including language that advances our shared environmental and economic goals through three key strategies:

- 1. Invest robust and sustained funding in MassCEC:** The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) is well positioned to be the hub for this burgeoning industry. Historically, the Center has been inadequately resourced to compete with similar agencies in other states; its workforce and innovation programs, while successful, remain comparatively limited in scope and scale. We applaud the Legislature's \$30

million appropriation for the Center in FY24 and support the Governor's proposal to extend at least that level of operating funding for the next decade. However, the ability of MassCEC to be proactive, responsive, and nimble to the changing needs of a new industry is constrained by its existing revenue streams. A robust bond authorization for MassCEC of at least \$400 million and consistent inclusion in upcoming capital plans will scale the Center and provide the long-term stability needed to enable the Commonwealth to meet this challenge.

- 2. Build a skilled and inclusive green workforce:** To decarbonize at the pace and scale required, we need MassCEC to make a significant and strategic investment in climatetech workforce development. Our vocational schools, community colleges, and universities are already educating the next generation of climatetech workers, and we need to significantly grow these programs. This will create high-quality jobs and a workforce ready to innovate and utilize the next generation climatetech at the center of our strategy to decarbonize key institutions from healthcare and education to manufacturing. Our net-zero transition could be a transformative wealth-building opportunity for environmental justice communities if we emphasize training opportunities in areas disproportionately burdened by climate change's impacts. By prioritizing outreach to marginalized communities, we can work to ensure that we have the skilled workers needed to facilitate this new growth and that high-quality, well-paying jobs are more widely accessible.
- 3. Attract, grow, and retain climatetech businesses in Massachusetts:** Our state already has most of the critical pieces necessary to lead the world in climatetech—we are the home of continual and historic innovations, leading educational institutions, and diverse and talented residents. We need capital investment and tax incentives to seize this unique opportunity to leverage our advantages and lower barriers to growth. By investing at least \$300M in tax incentives over the next 10 years, we will attract new businesses, keep Massachusetts startups here as they scale up, and incentivize investment in our local communities. Capital investment should support infrastructure and demonstration projects and should be intentionally designed to support equity and economic inclusion, both in where we focus geographically and in which communities benefit from new businesses. Massachusetts has focused on scaling the offshore wind industry over the last eight years, but even its development is quickly outgrowing the capacity of our ports and testing facilities. Clean tech developers are looking for continuing signals that Massachusetts is committed to remaining a national leader capable of supporting new and increased business.

To achieve the vision laid out above, we urge the Legislature to include a **total of at-least \$1 billion over 10 years** in this year's economic development package; this can be structured to shift larger expenditures to later years as our institutions and public agencies develop the programs needed to effectively spend new capital funds.

Ambition on this scale will signify to companies, venture capitalists, and innovators that Massachusetts is the place to be for climatetech. Fifteen years ago, the Commonwealth competed - and won - the life sciences industry by going bold and big, and we can't afford to miss the chance to do the same with the growing green economy. Leveraging the capacity of

public investment to catalyze growth is the kind of creative policymaking that the moment requires, and we look forward to the Commonwealth's continued leadership to meet this global challenge with historic action.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continuing to work with you to advance our shared climate goals.

Sincerely,

<b>Agilitas Energy</b>	<b>Enel</b>	<b>Prezerv</b>
<b>Akamai</b>	<b>Febowitz Energy Consulting</b>	<b>REI Co-op</b>
<b>Amalgamated Bank</b>	<b>Fermata Energy</b>	<b>Reon</b>
<b>Associated Industries of MA</b>	<b>Figure 8 Investment Strategies</b>	<b>Revision Energy</b>
<b>Autodesk</b>	<b>FirstLight Power</b>	<b>Schneider Electric</b>
<b>Baldwin Brothers, LLC</b>	<b>FLxDER</b>	<b>SeaAhead</b>
<b>Bemis</b>	<b>Form Energy</b>	<b>Sherlock Biosciences</b>
<b>Berkshire Bank</b>	<b>Franklin Cummings Tech</b>	<b>Siemens USA</b>
<b>Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA</b>	<b>Greenfield Solar</b>	<b>Skillworks</b>
<b>BlueHub Capital</b>	<b>Greentown Labs</b>	<b>SEBANE</b>
<b>BlueWave</b>	<b>Habitus Incorporated</b>	<b>Solect Energy</b>
<b>Boston Children's Hospital</b>	<b>Independence Solar</b>	<b>Sparkplug Power</b>
<b>Boston Medical Center</b>	<b>Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility</b>	<b>SRECTrade</b>
<b>Boston Trust Walden</b>	<b>Highland Fleets</b>	<b>Stance Capital</b>
<b>Building Ventures</b>	<b>LineVision</b>	<b>Sunrun</b>
<b>Clean Asset Partners</b>	<b>Longwood Energy</b>	<b>Takeda</b>
<b>Clean Energy Ventures</b>	<b>Lyft</b>	<b>The Boston Foundation</b>
<b>Cleantech Adoption</b>	<b>MA Business Roundtable</b>	<b>The Engine</b>
<b>Comfort Inn &amp; Suites Boston/Airport</b>	<b>MA Competitive Partnership</b>	<b>The Green Engineer</b>
<b>Commonwealth Fusion Systems</b>	<b>Mass General Brigham</b>	<b>The Lenox Hotel</b>
<b>Dimagi Inc.</b>	<b>Museum of Science, Boston</b>	<b>TripZero</b>
<b>DSM</b>	<b>Northeast Clean Energy Council</b>	<b>Uber</b>
<b>E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)</b>	<b>NEEEC</b>	<b>UMass Lowell</b>
<b>Eastern Bank</b>	<b>Nth Cycle</b>	<b>VEIR</b>
<b>EcoLogical Solutions, Inc.</b>	<b>Pattern Energy</b>	<b>VHB</b>
<b>Electrified Thermal Solutions, Inc</b>	<b>Planck Energies</b>	<b>Vicinity Energy</b>
<b>Encore Boston Harbor</b>	<b>PowerOptions</b>	<b>Zero-Point Development</b>

### **Questions?**

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