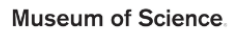




Where the world comes for answers



July 22, 2024

The Honorable Jeffrey N. Roy
House Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 43

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 109D

The Honorable Richard M. Haggerty
Vice Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 26

The Honorable Cynthia S. Creem
Senate Majority Leader
State House Room 312A

The Honorable Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
House Minority Leader
State House Room 124

The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr
Senate Minority Leader
State House Room 308

Chair Roy, Chair Barrett, and Honorable Members of the Conference Committee:

Thank you all for your efforts this session to advance comprehensive legislation addressing our Commonwealth's most pressing climate challenges. As businesses and institutions in Massachusetts committed to climate action, we urge you to act swiftly to produce a final bill that will enable communities across the Commonwealth to take action to meet our statutory clean energy and emission-reduction goals for 2025 and 2030.

We support the conference committee's work to craft a final climate package that includes the following key provisions:

Ambitious, Equitable Siting and Permitting Reform: To meet our 2030 renewable energy goals, we need to build a grid that is future-ready, responsibly-sited, and with benefits and burdens equitably shared. We need a modern energy siting and permitting system that prioritizes meaningful community engagement, makes thoughtful and science-informed decisions about land use, and facilitates the growth and evolution of our power grid to meet our decarbonization needs. This process will be the linchpin of our progress toward emission-reduction goals in every sector and help us integrate environmental justice into new frameworks. We thank you and your colleagues for your work to engage with the Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting & Permitting and encourage you to incorporate [its central recommendations](#) in this climate package.

Renewable Energy Deployment: To solicit, procure, and build renewable energy at the scale and pace necessary to meet our climate goals, we must both double down on the strategies that have made Massachusetts a national leader and embrace best practices being implemented in

neighboring states. We support efforts to stabilize and evolve our offshore wind procurement process by allowing for longer contract terms and increasing access to tax credits for small businesses. We also recognize the critical role storage technology plays in developing a flexible, reliable net-zero grid and support efforts to procure storage resources of varying durations.

Decarbonization of Transportation Infrastructure: Transportation remains the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions by sector in Massachusetts; any climate package must include significant and meaningful policies to decarbonize our infrastructure and assets. To catalyze further adoption of zero-emission vehicles, we support continued efforts to facilitate the expansion of accessible, reliable electric vehicle infrastructure including demand forecasting and providing the Division of Standards more authority to inspect, oversee, and regulate public charging stations. Additionally, we support requiring Commuter Rail electrification to ensure that the largest diesel-powered assets in our public transit fleet have a credible, equitable, and enforceable plan to electrify.

Planning for a Net-Zero Built Environment. To move toward an electrified future, we must facilitate the managed transition of our building sector off gas heating. It is counterproductive to continue to invest in expansion and unnecessary upgrades of the gas system, both creating stranded assets and wasting time and money. We support efforts to shift incentives and utility planning processes away from improving legacy assets with no place in a decarbonized grid, including the removal of “obligation to serve” language from statute and implementation of the reforms recommended by the Gas System Enhancement Plan Working Group to facilitate long-term transition planning and increased use of electric heating systems.

Thank you for your consideration of these important priorities; we look forward to their inclusion in the final conference report. We appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to meeting our shared climate goals.

Sincerely,

Akamai

Amalgamated Bank

Bemis

BlueWave

Boston Children's Hospital

Boston Medical Center

Dimagi

Eastern Bank

FirstLight Power

Form Energy

Greentown Labs

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Lenox Hotel

Museum of Science

New Leaf

Northeast Clean Energy Council

REON

ReVision Energy

Saunders Hotels Group

Sherlock Biosciences

Solect Energy

The Green Engineer

Trillium Asset Management

Trip Zero

Triumvirate Environmental

UMass Lowell

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