

July 23, 2024

The Honorable Aaron M. Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and
Means
State House Room 243

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

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

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and
Means
State House Room 212

The Honorable David K. Muradian, Jr.
Ranking Member, Joint Committee on
Economic Development and Emerging
Technologies
State House Room 156

The Honorable Peter J. Durant
Ranking Member, Joint Committee on
Economic Development and Emerging
Technologies
State House Room 413A

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Finegold, and Honorable Members of the Conference
Committee:

Thank you all for your efforts this session to advance ***An Act relative to strengthening
Massachusetts's economic leadership***, the Mass Leads Act. We are pleased to support this
transformative legislation that will help communities across the Commonwealth to grow
sustainably, to spread the benefits of growth equitably, and to prepare for a net-zero future.

In particular, we are strongly supportive of the climatetech provisions included in both
H.4804 and S.2869, which will catalyze significant progress in this growing industry and help
create thousands of new jobs. In order for Massachusetts to compete with other states and
countries vying to become a global leader in this sector, economic development legislation
passed in 2024 must include a combination of capital resources, tax credits, and institutional
commitments to climatetech.

As you work to produce final legislation for enactment, our organizations respectfully request
that the following key provisions be included in the final economic development package:

\$200 million for climatetech support (line item 7002-8077): This authorization creates a
new source of funding for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) to serve as a
hub of climatetech development in the Commonwealth. Supplying MassCEC with a sustained
combination of capital and operating funding will ensure that it is properly resourced to serve
as a hub of support and services for employers, the green workforce, and research and
educational institutions.

\$200 million for offshore wind (line item 7002-8078): Offshore wind remains the Commonwealth's single biggest driver of emissions reduction in the electric sector, as well as an industry where Massachusetts is well-positioned to be a global leader. Continued support for offshore wind innovation will build on the hard-fought progress Massachusetts has already made and continue to attract outside investment in this fast-growing industry.

Creation of a climatetech tax credit (section 74 of H.4804, and section 95 of S.2869):

These sections create a tax incentive program administered by MassCEC to support climatetech companies, playing a wide range of roles in the industry as it grows; this includes research, development, innovation, manufacturing, and deployment. These incentives will ensure that new companies can not only start in Massachusetts but also remain here as they grow while attracting new investments from around the world.

Together, these programs, combined with our existing competitive advantages, will create thousands of jobs and provide a return on investment projected to be billions of dollars in new economic activity. At the same time, the technologies, services, and products created by this industry will accelerate our progress toward net-zero emissions and drive down the cost of decarbonization.

We commend you and your colleagues for your consensus support of these initiatives throughout the legislative process and encourage you to preserve these investments in the final bill. We appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to building a thriving, competitive, and sustainable Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Questions?

David Melly, Legislative Director, Environmental League of MA

Dmelly@environmentalleague.org