

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

**Comments on H.4744, *An Act relative to energy affordability, clean power and economic competitiveness***

Dear Chair Michlewitz:

Thank you for the hard work of you and your colleagues to craft policies that support the energy needs of Massachusetts residents while continuing progress toward our climate goals. We appreciate the House's efforts to thoughtfully engage on the proposal before your committee, and we urge you to advance a revised bill that offers thoughtful solutions in the long-term best interest of residents and ratepayers.

We, the undersigned organizations, believe that Massachusetts deserves reliable access to affordable energy to power our homes and grow our economy. We also believe that maintenance of a legacy-system status quo that does not meet our 21st-century needs will end up costing residents more in the long run, exacerbating price shocks, public health impacts, and increased climate damage. Creating a clear path to a decarbonized grid supported by a diverse mix of home-grown renewable energy must be the cornerstone of our long-term affordability strategy, whereas creating more uncertainty by undermining our existing climate goals and programs with a proven track record of success will destabilize our green economy and create more instability.

To that end, we urge you to advance a bill that delivers affordable energy and cost savings while maintaining progress toward our climate goals. We urge you to remove sections that undermine our targets outlined in Chapter 21N (sections 2, 3, 4, and 92) and the integrity of the MassSave program (sections 5-11, 38, 61, 94, and 97-98), and we encourage you to preserve the language that increases our supply of renewable energy (sections 12, 14, 21), lowers barriers to solar deployment (section 21, 71-75, 78), and ensures we are using our existing infrastructure efficiently (sections 19, 51-56, 81-82, 84-88, and 90).

We also encourage you to incorporate three additional policy solutions that will help deliver cost savings for residents with long-term progress toward net-zero in mind:

**Large building emissions reduction:** We recommend establishing a statewide building energy and reporting disclosure ordinance (BERDO), as outlined in H.3529. We know that advancements in energy efficiency mean that the least expensive and cleanest energy is that which is never used. Buildings are responsible for 35% of total emissions statewide, but they make up the largest source of emissions in dense urban areas, which is part of why municipalities like Boston and Cambridge have already implemented BERDO policies. Policies that target the largest, most energy-intensive buildings also help alleviate the pressure to drive down building emissions from small individual residences. The creation of a statewide framework based on the success in cities that have already adopted this measure will help create regulatory predictability and make all large buildings more energy efficient.

**Statewide retail storage program:** Deploying responsibly-sited battery storage is one of the best cost-saving measures we can implement, allowing communities to charge power during low-demand periods and supply power to the grid during peaks. In essence, peak-shaving facilitated by energy storage allows us to use our cheapest electrons during our most essential times. We appreciate the House's efforts to pass similar policy already, in section 13 of H.4884 last session, and encourage you to do so again. Individual communities such as Wellesley and Holden have already entered into agreements delivering millions in savings, and this proposal would enable the Department of Energy Resources to set up similar programs statewide.

**Utility management audits:** To ensure that all stakeholders continue to operate in the best interest of ratepayers, it is essential that the Department of Public Utilities is empowered to fully oversee the operation of gas and electric utilities. We support the inclusion of section 28 of H.4144, the Governor's initial energy affordability proposal, that would give the Department the authority to conduct utility management audits to ensure they are making sound financial decisions that maximize benefits to the customers they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of these policies and your continued hard work. We urge the House Committee on Ways and Means to advance an energy affordability package that meets residents' needs and delivers cost savings while keeping us on the necessary path to a net-zero future. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**350 Mass  
Ceres  
Elders Climate Action  
Environmental League of Massachusetts  
Gas Transition Allies  
Green Energy Consumers Alliance  
Mass Audubon  
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trustees  
ThirdAct Massachusetts  
Union of Concerned Scientists**