

July 21, 2016

Honorable Brian Dempsey  
Honorable Thomas Golden  
Honorable Brad Jones

Honorable Ben Downing  
Honorable Marc Pacheco  
Honorable Bruce Tarr

Dear Conference Committee Members,

The Union of Concerned Scientists is deeply appreciative of the efforts in both the House and the Senate to develop and pass major energy proposals that will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and propel our state toward a clean energy future. The leadership from each of you in shaping this effort is a key reason why the state finds itself on the verge of an incredible leap toward a strong future for Massachusetts, and true national leadership on energy and climate policy and practice.

We have reached this point because of the House's trailblazing on the major components, both the clean energy procurement and the offshore wind support, and the Senate's success in taking those pieces to the next level. Each chamber also included laudable language for other important components.

The best strategy for Massachusetts—for achieving the bold leap forward that will serve Bay State homes and businesses in the near and long terms—is to combine the best ideas to form a strong, comprehensive bill for each chamber's approval.

For doing that, we strongly support the recommendations from ACES (the Alliance for Clean Energy Solutions) in their July 13 letter. In particular, we urge that the negotiated bill include:

- **Bold targets** for the clean energy procurement provision, offshore wind, and the strengthening of the state's renewable portfolio standard, with provisions ensuring strong competition and oversight in the procurements to ensure the best value for Massachusetts ratepayers
- Strong support to keep Massachusetts in its long-standing position of **national leadership on energy efficiency**, including through home energy labeling and help for homes and businesses relying on oil heat
- Additional policies to drive the state's transition to clean energy, including support for **energy storage, distributed energy resources, and renewable energy financing**, such as the PACE and Community Empowerment provisions, and policies to address

**natural gas**—both through clarifying the prohibition of electricity ratepayer funding for new pipelines and through policies to address pipeline leaks

- Enabling reforms to accelerate **electrification of our transportation sector**, encouraging increased EV deployment through a combination of incentives, access to charging stations, and requirements to incorporate EVs in public fleets

We also commend the legislature for addressing the increasing threat to Massachusetts's residents and economy from climate change impacts, and recognizing the strong connection between climate change and power sector emissions. We strongly support the provisions in the Senate version to build on the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act by establishing **2030 and 2040 GWSA targets**, and to drive **comprehensive adaptation management action planning** for the Commonwealth.

A comprehensive combined bill using the best work of each chamber will move the state in the right direction at the fast pace needed to diversify our energy supply, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and build jobs and careers in new industries. The UCS analysis earlier this year showing how effective a suite of bold policies could be for reducing our risks of natural gas overreliance and bringing a host of other benefits also projected that those advances could be achieved *at very modest cost*.<sup>1</sup>

In your roles as conferees, you have a golden opportunity to propel Massachusetts to show the rest of the country, and the world, how to get clean energy right while doing well by its residents. Thank you for your strong leadership.

Sincerely,



Ken Kimmell  
President  
Union of Concerned Scientists

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<sup>1</sup> The UCS analysis projected a cost of only \$3 per month extra for the average Massachusetts household in 2030 for 18.9 terawatt-hours of clean energy procurement, 2,000 megawatts of offshore wind, and an increase in the ramp-up rate of the renewable portfolio standard to 2 percent per year (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2016, *Massachusetts's Electricity Future*, online at [www.ucsusa.org/MassachusettsElectricityFuture](http://www.ucsusa.org/MassachusettsElectricityFuture)).