November 14, 2025

Speaker Ronald Mariano
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

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

Dear Speaker Mariano, Chair Michlewitz, and members of the House of Representatives,

We, the undersigned organizations, vigorously oppose any efforts to undermine the Commonwealth's 2030 climate mandates or to reduce essential Mass Save funding. We urge legislators to swiftly reject these counterproductive proposals and replace them with a strengthened set of policy and program solutions designed to help Massachusetts adapt to the current policy environment while maintaining the Commonwealth's core, evergreen objectives for affordability, climate, economic growth, and environmental justice.

Abandoning our climate commitments and cutting money-saving programs would be a grave misstep at a time when climate change and an overreliance on fossil fuel infrastructure continue to drive energy costs higher. While it is clear that there are and will be major challenges, thanks to a hostile federal administration, Massachusetts must intensify its work to create an affordable clean energy future. Already, our climate targets represent a critical backbone of the Massachusetts economy: the clean energy sector supports more than 115,000 workers, there are over 7,500 energy businesses statewide, and the clean energy industry has added more than $15.9 billion to Massachusetts' Gross State Product since 2012. Accelerating efforts to deploy clean energy and achieve emissions reduction mandates will only help the Commonwealth's economy grow further from here.

It is essential for lawmakers to bear the following factors in mind:

- **Today's affordability crisis is being driven primarily by fossil fuels, gas infrastructure, and traditional grid transmission and distribution (T&D) infrastructure**, not by clean energy, energy efficiency, and other efforts to achieve emissions reductions targets
- Realistic pathways to achieving the goals we have on the books still exist, and those **goals are still eminently achievable with 5 years to go before 2030**

- Despite federal backsliding, **the global energy transition continues to accelerate**, bringing technological improvements and cost-declines for Massachusetts to take advantage of, even as some sectors face unexpected challenges
- **A vote for this bill is a vote to maintain and double down on the status quo for the region's energy system**, exacerbating the conditions that today send tens of billions of dollars per year out of the local economy on volatile fossil fuels
- Clean energy and energy efficiency are already saving ratepayers money and **delivering billions of dollars in benefits in the form of reduced household energy expenditures**; we must not turn our back on these resources just as our clean energy and climate policies are beginning to bear real fruit for energy affordability
- Finally, **acting on climate is about delivering tangible improvements and quality of life benefits** to families and businesses ***today***, not just about taking action to improve prospects for future generations to come. Climate change is already here, but so is the opportunity to improve the well-being of the Commonwealth and its communities.

Climate targets - codified by the legislature just four years ago - remain necessary to provide measurable benchmarks that enable agencies to evaluate progress, adjust strategies, and ensure that policies and programs are consistent with long-term decarbonization pathways. These targets serve as the legal and policy framework that compels regulatory agencies to align their decisions with sound, scientifically-grounded objectives. With weakened targets, Massachusetts state agencies will not only lack accountability to implement regulations and policies that drive emissions reductions across all economic sectors, but they will indeed likely pause and walk back those critical implementation steps. Maintaining the clear and enforceable 2030 climate target is essential for guiding the decision-makers of businesses, utilities, and agencies alike to ensure adequate progress toward the long-term goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Rolling back climate benchmarks sends precisely the wrong signal to Massachusetts businesses and communities that have already begun investments into the clean energy transition. Massachusetts has positioned itself as a regional and national leader for climate innovation and clean energy development: weakening climate work now will create uncertainty, discourage public and private clean energy investments, and erode the credibility of our state's leadership within the climate industry. This is especially harmful as the Commonwealth seeks to attract and retain the many climate technology solutions coming out of cutting-edge university labs and R&D centers across the state. Why would any entrepreneur choose Massachusetts as the place to start and grow a climate startup with an unsupportive and noncommittal policy environment?

Stepping back from 2030 will also disproportionately harm Massachusetts low-income and environmental justice communities most vulnerable to the pollution and climate impacts of the status quo energy system away from which our current laws seek to move. Maintaining the 2030 target, coupled with sector-specific limits, is essential to ensure that state agencies take concrete, measurable action toward decarbonizing all aspects of Massachusetts' economy and prioritizing the co-pollutants that threaten the health and well-being of underserved, overburdened communities. This includes the transportation and buildings sectors, which contribute the majority of greenhouse gas emissions and other co-pollutants and thus the majority of environmental and public health harms. Weakening our 2030 target now will delay agency action, leave marginalized communities behind, and undermine climate progress to date.

Additionally, legislators must resoundingly reject efforts to cut Mass Save funding and cap future program budgets, which would substantially damage the nation-leading energy efficiency program. The program's track record is clear: from 2012-2023, Massachusetts residents have saved more than $34 billion in energy bills, health care costs, energy infrastructure costs, and air pollution because of Mass Save, and the programs have created around $3.51 in lifetime benefits for every $1 invested in energy efficiency - investments which, by the way, constitute a small fraction of overall energy expenditures each year in the Commonwealth. Along the way, Mass Save has helped create 83,893 jobs in energy efficiency industries and displaced the equivalent of 5,001,000 homes using natural gas for one year (almost twice as many as the total number of all homes in Massachusetts). Through this program, we have weatherized approximately 350,000 homes, including 70,000 low-income homes.

Additionally, though often unheralded, energy efficiency has played a critical role in suppressing prices in the wholesale electricity and gas markets as a cost-effective, competitive energy resource - not materially different from sources of supply. Energy efficiency thus plays a critical "always off" role in price suppression for the wholesale market by reducing both overall and peak customer demand, just like we saw solar do during the June heat wave. Thanks to the Mass Save program, Massachusetts has been able to deliver over 153 million megawatt-hours in savings, equivalent to the average annual output of five Brayton Point Power plants. By another metric, the Mass Save investments have displaced 78.9 years of electricity generation from Mystic Generating Station. This results in lower peaks, lower annual throughput, and thus significantly lower costs for everyone on the system. So, even if a Massachusetts resident has not actively used the Mass Save program by replacing their lightbulbs, appliances, insulation, or heating equipment, they have still saved money through the program -- by increasing grid reliability and reducing those wholesale energy costs.

From Mass Save to economywide emissions targets, the Commonwealth must redouble its efforts rather than retreating from its climate commitments. Every piece of evidence is clear: what is driving affordability concerns currently is an overreliance on fossil fuel and costly traditional infrastructure. The longer that Massachusetts continues to rely on this outdated and costly system, the longer that ratepayers will continue to suffer.

Thank you for your attention to this statement of unity and call to action. Please direct any questions/inquiries to Kyle Murray of the Acadia Center, kmurray@acadiacenter.org.

Sincerely,

350 Mass
Abode Energy Management
Acadia Center
Action for Equity
Affirmative Investments, Inc.
Allston Brighton CDC
Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
Ashland Sustainability Committee
Beacon Climate Innovations
Black Swan Lab
BlueHub Capital
Boston Climate Action Network
Boston Impact Initiative
Brookhaven Residents' Climate Change Committee
Brookline for Everyone
Building Decarbonization Coalition
CERES
CET
Charles River Green Coalition
Chase Systems LLC
Clean Energy Group
Clean Water Action
Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation
Commonwealth Community Developers, LLC
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Conservation Law Foundation
Double Edge Theatre
East Boston Community Development Corporation
Elders Climate Action Mass
Embue
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Fenway Forward
Franklin Co Continuing the Political Revolution Climate Task Force
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Green Cambridge
Green Newton
GreenRoots
Health Care Without Harm

Hebrew SeniorLife
Hingham Net Zero
Homeowner's Rehab, Inc.
Housing Corporation of Arlington
Intelli-Products Inc.
Island Housing Trust
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
Jonathan Rose Companies
LexiGraph
Lexington Climate Action Network
Lincoln Avenue Communities
LISC Massachusetts
Local Energy Advocates, Western Massachusetts
LPS Green Teams
Madison Park Development Corporation
Mass Audubon
Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Housing Partnership
Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light
MassSolar
Metro West Collaborative Development
New Ecology Inc
Newton EV Task Force
Northampton Mothers Out Front
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Passive House Massachusetts
Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast
Planning Office For Urban Affairs
Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH)
Progressive Democrats of MA (PDM)
Prophetic Resistance Boston
Renew Worcester
Resonant Energy
RESTORE: The North Woods
Rethinking Power Management
Revitalize CDC
Slingshot
Southwest Boston CDC

Speak for the Trees
Steven Winter Associates, Inc.
Studio G Architects
Sustainable Arlington
Sustainable Comfort, Inc.
Sustainable Milton
Sustainable Wellesley
The Neighborhood Developers
Third Act Massachusetts
TSK Energy Solutions LLC
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action
UU of Fairhaven, Green Sanctuary Team
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Worcester Congregations for Climate and Environmental Justice
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