



July 31, 2024

Via Email

The Honorable Karen Spilka
President
Massachusetts Senate

The Honorable Ronald Mariano
Speaker
Massachusetts House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael Barrett
Massachusetts Senate

The Honorable Jeffrey Roy
Massachusetts House of Representatives

The Honorable Cynthia Creem
Massachusetts Senate

The Honorable Richard Haggerty
Massachusetts House of Representatives

The Honorable Bruce Tarr
Massachusetts Senate

The Honorable Bradley Jones Jr.
Massachusetts House of Representatives

Dear President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, and Honorable Conferees:

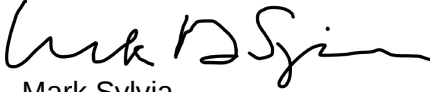
Thank you for your continued leadership in advancing important climate legislation. As representatives of the solar and energy storage industries and municipalities on the Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting ("CEISP"), we are reaching out to emphasize that the Commonwealth's ability to meet its climate goals hinges on whether the Legislature is able to pass a climate bill this session that reforms our siting and permitting process.

As you know, the pace of clean energy deployment has dramatically slowed as permitting has become more difficult, and the infrastructure upgrades clean energy facilities depend on to connect to the electric grid also get bogged down in an outdated and duplicative permitting process. At the same time, cities and towns are eager to help meet our GHG reduction goals, but need more clarity about how to move the siting process along at the local level. If the bill passes today, the first permit applications filed once new regulations are in place will be in 2026 and those permits will be granted in 2027. If this legislation is delayed until next session, clean energy deployment will continue at a snail's pace until 2030 is on our doorstep. We cannot afford to wait.

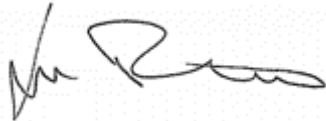
The language included in both House and Senate bills is a carefully balanced compromise that derives from a months-long collaborative effort among stakeholders representing widely disparate views on how siting and permitting of clean energy resources should work. Despite these disparate views, this group aligned around a set of recommendations, reflected in legislation already passed in both Chambers, that would reform the way clean energy is sited and permitted in the Commonwealth. We cannot pass up this opportunity to take action while all of the key stakeholders are on board.

We urge you to reach an accord and pass a climate bill that includes many of the key priorities as agreed upon by the House and Senate, with this essential permitting reform package central to the Commonwealth's progress on ambitious emission reduction goals.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sylvia".

Mark Sylvia
Chief of Staff
BlueWave

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Robertson".

Jessica Robertson
Director of Policy and Business Development, New England
New Leaf Energy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lizzi Weyant".

Lizzi Weyant
Deputy Executive Director
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

CC:
Secretary Rebecca Tepper
Undersecretary Michael Judge
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs