



Members of the Senate
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA

June 28, 2016

Dear Senators:

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts applauds the efforts of Senator Karen Spilka, Chair of Senate Ways and Means, and all members of the Committee for their work on SB 2372: Promote Energy Diversity.

This bill demonstrates the comprehensive, bold and responsible action needed to address the challenge and threat of accelerating climate change at the state level.

Provisions that double the mandated growth rate for renewable energy for electricity generation; increase procurement requirements for wind and other forms of clean, renewable energy; and promote energy efficiency and purchase of energy storage systems reflect a commitment to a faster transition to clean energy, a critical factor if we are to meet target greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals mandated by the Global Warming Solutions Act and our energy needs. Diversifying the Commonwealth's energy portfolio so we are less reliant on natural gas will reduce vulnerability to price volatility associated with that market. Removing the demonstrably unnecessary "remuneration" charge for utilities represents a fair and unbiased position and approach.

We ask that you also include the following provisions to further strengthen the bill and advance the effort:

- Ban ratepayer subsidies to utilities to finance construction of new natural gas pipelines to protect ratepayers and to encourage cleaner forms of locally-generated energy;
- Fix gas leaks, an immediately 'doable' and effective way to significantly reduce emissions and cost to ratepayers;

- Extend market net metering exemptions in place for municipal solar projects to include community solar and low-to-moderate income housing solar projects;
- Support multi-sector carbon pricing to address emissions from transportation, heating fuels and industry, the largest source of emissions in the Commonwealth.

A growing number of reports make it clearer than ever that climate change is happening now on a local as well as global level, at a faster and faster pace. The New England region is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise that is projected to 'hit home' sooner rather than later. We have and will continue to shape the future through our action or inaction. SB 2372 offers an opportunity for Massachusetts to stand as a model of rational, thoughtful and effective legislation on behalf of current and future generations.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts urges the Senate to consider these suggested provisions to the bill and to pass a strong and forward-looking energy bill this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Cherdack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean Cherdack

President

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts