

**Information and talking points for LWV members re Mass Senate Clean Energy Tour**  
**Prepared by Launa Zimmaro, Legislative Specialist**

- Those who plan to speak should arrive 20-30 minutes early to sign-up to speak.
- Speaking times will likely be limited.
- General comments are fine; there is no expectation from Senators to provide fine details; just referencing the bill numbers, titles, legislators we support lets the Senators in attendance know we are concerned, we care, and we are paying attention.
- On the website <https://malegislature.gov/cleanenergyfuture> there are also links to email and/or tweet comments. Some of the tweets are already posted.
- The bills referenced below are a subset of energy/climate legislation currently supported by LWVMA. For the full list of environment/energy/climate bills, click here <https://lwvma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation/> and scroll down the page to the Environment sections.
- We don't want them to hear the exact same thing nine times, so please feel free to modify or tell your own story.

**Please note that the yellow highlighted material could be skipped in the interest of time.**

**General statement regarding why we need these energy bills. Please feel free to modify with your own words/stories.**

Massachusetts has made great strides in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting clean energy innovation and adoption under Republican and Democratic Administrations, but the evidence that climate change is accelerating and already impacting MA is visible today.

Massachusetts needs to respond by accelerating its efforts to meet this challenge, in addition to meeting emissions reductions mandates of the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports legislation that will help us achieve mandated emissions reductions, keep energy dollars in Mass, stimulate the economy, spur the growth of a clean energy economy, and ensure that low and moderate income households are protected from harmful impacts.

We'd like to highlight several bills that the League sees as critical to meaningful, forward movement, while also protecting our health, our economy and the future of our society and our planet.

## **CARBON PRICING**

**S. 1821 submitted by Senator Michael Barrett: An Act Combating Climate Change**

**H. 1726 submitted by Representative Jen Benson: An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Create Jobs**

The League sees carbon pricing as a foundational element in a comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift society to clean, renewable energy and a strong economy.

We applaud Senator Barrett for his vision and leadership on this issue and we're very pleased that there is a carbon pricing bill in the House, submitted by Representative Benson.

**Refer to carbon pricing bills fact sheets for more information and talking points**

<https://campaignforcleanenergyfuture.org/an-act-combating-climate-change/> and <https://campaignforcleanenergyfuture.org/an-act-to-promote-green-infrastructure-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-create-jobs/>.

## **RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD**

**S.1876 and H.2700 submitted by Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Kay Khan:**

**An Act to increase the renewable portfolio standard and ensure compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act**

These bills will increase the minimum percentage of renewable energy supplied by electricity suppliers from qualifying renewable resources and **extend compliance to municipal electric utilities currently exempted from requirements to include renewable energy** as a source of electricity supplied.

1. Ensure compliance with the mandates of the Global Warming Solutions Act
2. Encourage/sustain the development of in-state/in-region renewables (specifically on-shore wind and distributed resources) –keeping economic benefits of renewable energy growth here in MA and in the region
3. Maintain MA's leadership on clean energy and climate action

**Refer to fact sheet on RPS**

<http://mapowerforward.com/files/powerforward/Legislation20172018/MPFOne-PageRPS.pdf>

## **SOLAR ENERGY**

**S.1846/H.2706 submitted by Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Paul Mark:  
An Act Relative to Solar Power and the Green Economy**

This legislation eliminates solar net metering caps, establishes a statewide solar target of 25% by 2030, and accelerates the Renewable Portfolio Standard (the "green power" mandate on utilities) by 3 percentage points each year.

1. Massachusetts has grown from 10 megawatts (MW) in 2009 to more than 1,600 MW today, fostering a state-wide solar industry that has created nearly 15,000 jobs.

2. The rapid growth in solar adoption in MA has led to net metering caps being met almost immediately after being set stymies ongoing development and adoption of solar.
3. Current policy is also out of step with the economic realities of the renewable energy boom experienced in MA, with its associated job and clean energy industry growth, a trend that reduces volatility in our energy procurement and keeps more energy dollars in MA to boost the overall state economy.

**Refer to fact sheet on solar bill**

[http://mapowerforward.com/files/powerforward/Legislation20172018/2017MPFOne-  
PagerSolar.pdf](http://mapowerforward.com/files/powerforward/Legislation20172018/2017MPFOne-<br/>PagerSolar.pdf)

**Thank you for your attention, your leadership and this opportunity to share our thoughts.**