



March 5, 2019

Governor Charlie Baker  
Office of the Governor  
24 Beacon Street, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts applauds the announcement of the *GreenWorks Resilient Communities Investment Plan*, proposed by Speaker DeLeo on February 22. While the bill outlining specifics of the proposal has not yet been submitted to the Legislature, the plan to provide \$100 million in grants to communities throughout Massachusetts over a 10-year period for investment in renewable energy infrastructure and climate resiliency programs is welcome news. The League looks forward to reviewing the bill, and to robust and transparent debate on the measure with a vote this session.

It is particularly important that the Speaker points out this proposal “is not meant to supplant any other ideas that are out there.” The climate challenge we face requires bold, comprehensive and coordinated action on many fronts, along with meaningful policies to address issues of equity and environmental justice. Science and Nature have put us on notice: we must decarbonize globally as quickly as possible.

Building resiliency and adapting to deal with the climate impacts we are already experiencing is critical. But those efforts will be meaningless if we fail at Job One—acting quickly and smartly to reduce emissions, the clear priority. This priority is followed closely by the need to remove barriers from development of clean, renewable and local energy and to encourage its growth. Our future depends on it.

Our planet does not need to be saved; it will survive. At peril is our ecosphere—the interdependent web of life that exists on the planet. The common ground is a commitment to a future. Current technology and approaches that work are available now to do what needs to be done.

Thank you to the Speaker and members of the House for this important proposal. Now we need an implementation roadmap for proceeding in a coherent manner and, most importantly, the political will and leadership to set it in motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ann Ashton".

Mary Ann Ashton  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Launa Zimmaro".

Launa Zimmaro  
Climate Change and Energy Legislative Specialist