



January 15, 2021

LWVMA Statement on Governor Baker's Veto of the Climate Bill

Governor Baker has vetoed S.2995: *An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy*, a truly trailblazing bill, five years in development. The bill represents a bi-partisan effort by both chambers of the Legislature in recognition of the serious threat of climate change and the urgent need to move as quickly and thoughtfully as possible to decarbonize. If passed, S.2995 would be the strongest climate bill in the country, a model for other states, and a display of courageous, thoughtful leadership.

While the veto was disappointing to the many advocates who worked tirelessly to move the bill to the Governor's desk, this campaign is not over. In fact, we expect that the bill will pass early in this new Legislative session. Speaker Mariano and Senate President Spilka have vowed to resubmit the bill to the Governor as quickly as possible after the required votes in the House and Senate, and the bill (with a new number) is expected to garner unanimous, veto-proof support of House and Senate members, as it did last session. It is important to move the bill as is, without amendments, so that it becomes law and implementation of provisions can begin as quickly as possible. The new session offers opportunities to address issues with the bill, if needed, but we can no longer afford to delay meaningful action on climate.

LWVMA is grateful to the Legislature and to the Administration for their commitment to addressing climate change with meaningful, science-based and data-driven legislation to help move us in a sustainable direction to a livable future.

Thank you to the hundreds of League members and committed citizens who responded to action alerts during the first phase to pass S.2995. Stay tuned for information on the progress of the bill and, please be "on call" for possible action needed in the next phase - moving this bill past the finish line and into law as quickly as possible.