



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy  
In support of H.3350/S.2202 An Act relative to building energy and decarbonization  
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports H.3350/S.2202 as essential to achieving mandated renewable energy and emissions reduction targets. As we ramp up our supplies and equitable access to clean renewable energy, we need to mobilize across all sectors of the economy simultaneously to address emissions that are pushing us deeper and deeper into the climate crisis. It makes sense to tackle the largest sources of emissions first. You know the statistic: over 27% of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts come from buildings, the second largest source of emissions in the Commonwealth, after transportation.

LWVMA supports H.3350/S.2202 as a comprehensive approach that addresses emissions in new and existing buildings through amendments to Mass Save, the Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS), the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program (PACE), and regulatory changes in the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Expansion of the Green Communities Program to include a “Green Plus” tier would provide additional incentives to boost municipal leadership and opportunity to reduce greenhouse emissions. A grant and loan program to support deep energy retrofits focuses on historically underserved low-and moderate-income households and environmental justice communities so that all residents can participate in and benefit from improved health outcomes and the clean energy opportunities ahead.

Specific changes include:

**Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS)**

- Defines “net zero building”
- Incorporates new performance standard into the stretch code by 2025, and the base code by 2028
- Requires the BBRS mission to include climate, public health and equity impacts
- Assess policies based on alignment with 2050 Roadmap goals

**Department of Energy Resources**

- Establishes a building retrofit program and supporting Trust Fund
- Establishes a net zero building task force to support new performance standards and energy retrofit program



## **Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies**

### *Changes to the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program*

- Removes funding for gas lines
- Adds clean energy resilience applications eligibility

### *Changes to the Mass Save program*

- Ends funding for fossil fuel systems

The changes proposed in H.3350/S.2202 would align and train the operating procedures and mission of associated agencies in the broad decarbonization effort required to achieve the clean energy economy and future that are within our grasp, if we act.

The proposed changes are all doable now. Every day of delay makes the task before us even more difficult and expensive in terms of the health and economic cost to society, and the job and industry opportunities lost.

The signals have never been clearer: we must act now to have a shot at building a livable future. We must act across all sectors, and all at the same time. H.3350/S.2202 would make a significant dent in emissions from buildings now and into the future.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, once again urges this Committee to give its full support to passage of H.3350/S.2202.

Thank you for your consideration.