



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy**  
**In support of**  
**H.3288/S.2136: An Act transitioning Massachusetts to clean electricity, heating, and transportation**

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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is submitting this testimony in support of H.3288/S.2136.

The need to transition off fossil fuels as quickly as possible has never been clearer: the continued extraction and combustion of fossil fuels is a dead end for life on this planet – literally. The increasing ferocity of climate change impacts we’re witnessing in floods, droughts, massive storm systems and biodiversity loss are clear and present signals that the time to address this threat is running out.

Achieving 100% clean energy by 2045 is not a pipedream, but eminently doable as costs for renewable energy projects continue to decline far faster than projections and their efficiency only continues to improve.<sup>1</sup> H.3288/S.2136 lists requirements and actions to achieve this goal, along with provisions that include workers and those in environmental justice communities in a just and equitable transition. H.3288/S.2136 would end the use of fossil fuels in the electricity sector to achieve 100% clean electricity by 2035 and 100 percent clean heating and clean transportation by 2045, “ramping up” the timeline set by the Commonwealth. Important specific provisions include:<sup>2</sup>

100% clean electricity by 2035

- Investor-owned utilities will provide 100 percent clean electricity by 2035, with at least 80 percent from Class I resources like wind and solar through the renewable portfolio standard (RPS).
- At least 15 percent of new renewable energy generation must be distributed generation like rooftop solar.
- Municipal utilities must provide 100 percent clean electricity by 2035.
- Wood biomass and trash incineration are not eligible to be considered “renewable” or “clean” electricity.

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<sup>1</sup> Three Myths About Renewable Energy and the Grid, Debunked: Amory Lovins & M.V. Ramana. Yale Environment 360, 12/09/21: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/three-myths-about-renewable-energy-and-the-grid-debunked>

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of Environment Massachusetts



#### 100% clean heating by 2045

- After 2025, new houses and small commercial buildings must be highly energy efficient and use clean heating. After 2030, this requirement will apply to all new buildings.
- At least 1 million homes and 300 million sq. ft. of commercial space must be retrofitted to be efficient and use clean heating by 2030.
- A trust fund will offset the cost for residents and businesses to switch to clean heating.

#### 100% clean transportation by 2045

- All cars sold in Massachusetts after 2035 must be electric vehicles or other zero emission vehicles.
- At least 30 percent of trucks sold must be zero emission vehicles by 2030.
- The MBTA and RTAs will transition to zero emission buses, and commuter rail lines will be electrified.
- The Main Streets Program will promote walkable, bikeable, and transit-accessible neighborhoods.

#### **Just transition for workers and environmental justice communities**

- The Just Transition Office will assist workers that are displaced in the transition off of fossil fuels.
- The Clean Energy Equity Office will ensure that environmental justice (EJ) communities benefit from clean energy incentive programs.
- Public hearings to implement this bill will be held in EJ communities.
- Residents of EJ communities will have seats on advisory committees.
- State agencies must consider how to minimize costs and maximize benefits of the transition for EJ communities.

Changing the *status quo* is no easy feat and H.3288/S.2136 sets ambitious but critical goals. Fighting an existential threat requires no less.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, urges this committee to move H.3288/S.2136 out of committee and support its passage this session. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.