



Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

In support of H.3292, An Act achieving a green future with infrastructure and workforce investments

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December 14, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is submitting this testimony in support of H.3292. The League views this bill as necessary to ensuring the sustainable, equitable funding required to meet the Commonwealth's climate goal of net zero emissions by 2050, affirmed by the Legislature and Governor in 2020, while building and transitioning to a robust, green economy in Massachusetts.

H.3292 is an investment in our future that will repay the Commonwealth many times over in beneficial and consequential ways, such as job creation including help for displaced fossil fuel industry workers, shoring up municipalities with aid for green projects, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, financial support for residents impacted by climate change and emissions reduction policies including those in environmental justice communities, and improved health for all residents.

The bill will:

- Create up to 83,000 good-paying, local jobs by 2030 that will build our local economy alongside the green infrastructure required to reduce emissions and enhance our resilience to climate impacts, with contracts based on prevailing wage laws and Project Labor Agreements;
- Establish a "21st Century Green Bonding Program" of \$500 million as part of annual capital budget process to maintain green future investment funding over time;
- Provide *per capita*-based funding for municipalities with extra funding for long-neglected environmental justice communities and ensures that 60% of green infrastructure spending is directed to benefit environmental justice communities across the state;
- Build infrastructure that will dramatically improve public health impacted by noxious air pollution while helping the state achieve required emissions reduction goals, saving an estimated 7,600 lives a year in Massachusetts by reducing air pollution;
- Eliminate the polluter fee loophole for out-of-state importers by establishing a decreasing cap over time on allowable fossil fuel emissions using the "tried and true" approach of a carbon fee already in place in Massachusetts since the 2007 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for electricity generation. Emissions targets in the bill aim at reduction from current 87% to 7% by 2025. Fees are projected to raise \$500-\$750 million/year;
- Inject an estimated \$4.5 billion to benefit environmental justice communities across the state and support new models for community governance.



Revenue generated would be invested to establish/provide:

- Funding for state-wide green infrastructure to support electrifying transportation, increasing renewable energy, and consumer heating efficiency rebates;
- Local aid to cities and towns to fund critical local green infrastructure and adaptation projects;
- A Green Workforce Commission to develop a 21st century clean energy/green workforce with \$10 million set-aside for displaced fossil fuel workers;
- Dividends for vulnerable households to off-set cost increases during the transition to a green economy.

The League of Women Voters has a long history of championing efforts to ensure clean air, clean water and a resilient ecosphere as key to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public and society, now and for future generations.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, with 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, supports this bill and urges you to favorably move H.3292 out of committee and to the floor for a vote this legislative session – for the common good.

Thank you for your consideration.