

Dear Mr. Speaker...

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,

We have great respect for you and House members. Energy policy is complicated. It becomes simpler if you remove the profit motives of Big Utilities. Focus on only two considerations: What's best for our economy and environment.

We propose a true energy “**combo platter**” that diversifies our portfolio, expands capacity, reduces pollution, and creates new industries and jobs in Massachusetts. Here's how:

OFF-SHORE WIND:

Provide long-term contracts for the development of 2000MW of wind in federal waters. Scale = Cost and Jobs. The greater the scale the lower the cost. The greater the scale the more local manufacturing jobs. If we're not half-hearted, off-shore wind could provide 12% of our energy needs. (Pilgrim is only 5%.)

HYDRO:

Provide for a mix of Canadian hydro (70%) with on-shore wind produced in New England (30%). Why? Because on-shore wind is cheap, creates regional jobs and further diversifies our energy portfolio. (Most hydro developers support it.)

SOLAR:

We've hit the cap again. New projects are stalled that could provide more energy and local jobs. Solar is only 3% of our current energy. Not enough. Eliminate the cap (other states already have), and preserve an economic structure making it viable for all of us, including lower income ratepayers.

NO GAS PIPELINES:

The Attorney General's study indicates there is no need for additional gas. New pipelines cost \$3 billion paid by a new tariff (i.e. tax) on ratepayers. We would pay the cost for 30 years, whether we needed it or not. Instead, utilities should first fix thousands of leaks in existing pipelines, before building new ones.

Mr. Speaker and Members: We stand ready to work with you. Give us an energy policy for the 21st century, not the last century. Give us an energy policy that creates local energy and local jobs. Help us meet our statutory obligation to reduce pollution by 25% by 2020.

Sincerely,



George Bachrach / President
Environmental League of MA / Action Fund
www.elmaction.org



Brad Campbell / President
Conservation Law Foundation
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