

An Act to Promote Energy Diversity, Chapter 188

Signed August 8, 2016, House 4568

After much deliberation and hard work, the final draft of the comprehensive energy bill came out of the conference committee and was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker.

This bill is an excellent step in the right direction for clean energy. Some major victories from this bill are:

Offshore Wind

This bill ensures 1600MW of offshore wind in Massachusetts waters by 2027, enough to power over half a million homes. This is the largest commitment to offshore wind in the United States. By making this commitment, Massachusetts is becoming a leader in renewable energy. This is just the first step in bringing more of this abundant clean energy to the Bay state and to the country.



Natural Gas Leak Repairs

Another success from this bill came in an amendment requiring the identification and repair of Grade 3 gas leaks, where the leak is determined to have a significant environmental impact. This is a great addition in preventing some of the environmental harm caused by natural gas and appropriately puts the burden of these repairs on the utility companies.

Energy Storage

The bill also includes provisions that require the Department of Energy Resources to evaluate energy storage procurement targets for the electric utilities. These storage systems would be viable and cost effective, and will help the Commonwealth even out the peaks between generation and use for electricity from clean sources. A decision will be made by 2010.

For more information and to get involved with future energy legislation, email info@massclimateaction.net and see www.massclimateaction.org