

Annese: Choose clean energy for Massachusetts

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On June 8, the Massachusetts House of Representatives voted to pass a bill that will diversify the state's energy resource and set a firm foundation for renewable energy growth in the state. The bill sailed through on a 154-1 vote and requires utilities to enter into long-term contracts to purchase 1.2 GW of offshore wind power and 1.2 GW of hydropower by 2027. Clean energy advocates throughout the state have called for a larger commitment, including an increase to 2000 MW of offshore wind power, but this bill is a step in the right direction for our state.

Offshore wind produces clean energy using an abundant natural resource. Additionally, this energy is generated locally and will create local jobs. Utilizing a local energy source also ensures that more of our energy dollars will stay in the region. All of this makes offshore wind an excellent choice to protect our environment and drive our economy forward.

State Rep. Thomas Golden, D-Lowell, said that if the bill becomes a law, Massachusetts will be obtaining approximately 20 percent of its energy from renewable resources. This is great news for local jobs and the environment, and we need to continue to do more, especially on solar. The commonwealth has been a leader in the transition to clean energy and we need to make bold moves in order for our environment will be protected.

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