



The State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

January 25, 2021

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to you with concerns in S.9., *An Act creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts climate policy*.

The bill requires Massachusetts to reduce carbon emission by thresholds until 2050. The first threshold calling for a 50% reduction by 2030 contrasts with the Baker administration's call for a 45% reduction. While the difference between the two figures appears minor, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Kathleen Theoharides has stated, "There is a real risk with going beyond 45 percent that it would be unnecessarily disruptive to the economy and likely extremely costly, particularly for people who can least afford it." With the economic effects of a global pandemic looming, this warning should not be taken lightly.

Setting lofty goals and mandating them by law is certainly the easy part. Goal setting does not require discussing the specific, tangible actions required to meet those goals, nor the very real burdens they will place in the lives of many working families. In fact, this bill specifically shifts the responsibility for this difficult work to other entities such as utility companies and executive branch departments. When residents of Massachusetts begin feeling the pain of higher heating and electricity bills, gas prices, and commodities, will you tell them you voted for it?

This bill further imposes California style regulations on appliances and fixtures and once again allows unelected bureaucrats to set the efficiency standards for them going forward. It prohibits any nonconforming appliance from being advertised for sale or sold in state. Besides taking away consumer choice, this would also hurt those who look to places like Craigslist to attain secondhand appliances as their only option.

This bill allows for another significant procurement of offshore wind power, despite Massachusetts still not having completed two current windfarm ventures. Unforeseen issues are sure to arise with these current projects off our coasts. Transmission, maintenance, effects on marine life and the fishing industry, people and tourism are all unknowns. In fact, a section of a recently passed bill, ultimately stricken from the final language, would have created an office of renewable energy fishery impacts, to study the impacts of offshore wind energy infrastructure on marine fisheries. Without knowing the ultimate cost and potential environmental effects, a more cautious approach is certainly warranted.

Since you have now had sufficient time to go through this bill, without the flurry of end of session activity, we hope you are able to consider the long-term effects, as well as the surrendering of legislative authority on issues that are certain to greatly impact your constituents. Please feel free to contact me at laurie@massfiscal.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Belsito".

Laurie Belsito
Legislative Director