



350 Massachusetts 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda

1. Stop the Pipeline Tax (again)

- Utilities and Spectra Energy want ratepayers to pay for a proposed pipeline, Access Northeast.
- This arrangement and others like it should be banned and higher standards need to be established for future projects.
- Additional legislation would block similar contracts forcing ratepayers to pay for interstate projects
- Supported bills:

HD3204/SD1727: An act clarifying authority and responsibilities of the department of public utilities (Rep Kulik & Sen. Eldridge)

HD2527/SD1674 An act protecting ratepayers from gas pipeline expansion costs (Sen. Jehlen & Rep. Gordon)

2. Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

- The RPS ensures that utilities buy clean energy, but MA is falling behind other states
- Doubling the RPS to a 2% increase or more every year puts us back on track
- The RPS ensures local investment in renewable sources and green job growth
- Supported bill:

HD 2103/SD.1372: An act to increase the RPS and Ensure Compliance with the GWSA
(Rep. Khan and Sen. Pacheco)

3. Put a Price on Carbon

- Reduction of carbon pollution from transportation and heating is required to meet GWSA goals.
- Putting a predictable price on carbon facilitates emissions reduction responsibly and fairly.
- Additional protection provided for low-income and adversely affected populations.
- Supported bills:

SD 1021: An act combating climate change (Sen. Barrett)

HD.1504: An act to promote green infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs (Rep. Benson)

4. Expand Low-Income/Community Solar

- Recent cuts to the net metering rate adversely affect low-income/community projects
- Restoring those rates makes those projects feasible again
- An expansive vision of solar rebating tied to “value of solar” and new goals
- Supported bills:

HD3418/SD841: An act relative to solar power in environmental justice and urban communities (Rep. Holmes & Sen. Chang-Diaz)

HD2157/SD1632: An act relative to solar power and the green economy (Rep. Mark & Sen. Eldridge)

5. Protect Consumers from Cost of Gas Leaks

- Ratepayers are still paying for the cost of gas that leaks out of pipes even though they don't benefit from that gas.
- Protecting consumers from this cost encourages companies to fix leaks faster
- Supported bill:

HD 2253/SD1113: An act relative to protecting consumers of gas and electricity from paying for leaked and unaccounted for gas. (Rep Barber & Sen. Eldridge)

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