

## Join us in Supporting Massachusetts Legislation to Protect our Children!

**As mothers and caregivers**, we demand a swift, just, and complete transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy!

**Why?** Because transporting and burning gasoline, oil, and natural gas pollutes the air, water and ground.

- **Carbon pollution harms our children**, and significantly increases the incidence and severity of respiratory diseases, e.g. asthma.
- Methane, also called “natural gas,” is highly explosive and dangerous. Today’s gas contains toxic fracking chemicals: using gas at home releases these chemicals into the air we breathe.
- Children in low-income and communities of color are most likely to live near a dirty power plant, a busy highway, or other sources of carbon and toxic pollution.
- Carbon emissions from all sources contribute to global warming, threatening sea levels, agriculture, and all life.

**For the health and safety of all our children, and for their future well-being:** please join us in supporting new legislation in Massachusetts to transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy!

## Call to Action!

**For the sake of all our children**, please contact your state Senator and Representative and ask them to support these bills:

**Carbon Pricing and Rebate - H.2810:** will encourage energy users to shift away from fossil fuels by pricing their carbon emissions and the cost of extraction and distribution.

**The FUTURE Act - S.1940 / H.2849:** incentivizes gas utilities to be safer, more transparent, more accountable. Also provides mechanisms to move from gas distribution to more renewable energy.

**Environmental Justice - S.453 / H.826 and S.464 / H.761:** Ensures that no group is unfairly impacted by fossil fuels, and environmental justice communities benefit from transition to clean, renewable energy.

**Your voice counts –  
Please call your legislator today!**

**Find your legislators:**  
[malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator](http://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator)

**More about Mothers Out Front:**  
[https://ma.mothersoutfront.org/mass\\_mof\\_legislation\\_team](https://ma.mothersoutfront.org/mass_mof_legislation_team)



**MOTHERS OUT FRONT**  
MOBILIZING FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE

## We Support Massachusetts Legislation to Protect Our Children from Carbon Pollution!



To achieve our goal, Mothers Out Front supports a set of four complimentary bills that incentivize movement away from carbon-based fuels.

### **We support these bills because they:**

- Are based on scientifically sound, tested and effective practices
- Explicitly incorporate the concerns and needs of all communities and households, including communities of color or low economic status that are often impacted, but rarely consulted, in environmental policy development

## Carbon Pricing and Rebate

Rep. Benson

When you buy gasoline or heating fuel, you pay for drilling, refining, and transporting, but *not* for the health and environmental cost of fossil fuel emissions.

This bill would establish a carbon fee, where 70% of the fee will be returned as “rebates” that are adjusted for economic fairness. Those who use more fossil fuels get smaller rebates than those who use less fossil fuels.

Carbon pricing has proven successful in the U.S. and 20 other countries, and is endorsed by many economists including Paul Romer and William Nordhaus, co-winners of the 2018 Nobel Prize in economics.

### Who Gets Most of the Rebates?

**Answer: Your Household and Community!**

Households and small businesses will receive 70% of the rebates. 30% of the rebates will fund municipal infrastructure.



## The FUTURE Act

Reps. Ehrlich & Minicucci and Sen. Creem

For decades, Massachusetts electric utilities have been increasing clean renewable energy generation, creating many thousands of new jobs and over \$5 billion in new investment.

*But our gas utilities have been left out of this crucial transition to clean energy!*



The Merrimack Valley gas system recently collapsed in explosions and fires. *MA utilities left 15,829 gas leaks unrepaired in 2017!*

### The F.U.T.U.R.E. Act:

- Strengthens safety regulations for gas leaks
- Requires gas companies, like electric companies, to reduce emissions every year
- Permits gas companies to provide renewable thermal heat via district energy, allowing communities to benefit regardless of socioeconomic status
- Takes gas out of the homes, improving indoor air quality for everyone
- Creates thousands of safe, well-paying local jobs

## Two Environmental Justice Bills

Reps. Miranda & Dubois, Sen. Eldridge  
Rep. Madaro, Sen. Didomenico

The Massachusetts Constitution states: *The people shall have the right to clean air and water... the general court has the power to enact legislation to protect such rights.*

Current legal definitions of environmental justice are administrative policy without the force of law. These two bills seek to codify accepted definitions into law.

Low-income and communities of color are most likely to be in the shadows of a dirty power plant, toxic landfill, or busy polluting highway, vulnerable to adverse health effects and the risk of serious accidents.

### These Environmental Justice (EJ) bills:

- Ensure equal protection and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws
- Require consideration of public health impact and EJ communities when siting dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure
- Provide protection from pollution and access to government; multi-lingual outreach where needed