



June 9, 2026

The Honorable Karen Spilka
President, Massachusetts Senate
State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Barrett
Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House, Room 312-B
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Advancing Real Energy Affordability Legislation & Protecting Consumer Choice

Dear Madam President, Chairman Rodrigues, Chairman Barrett, and Members of the Senate:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Coalition for Sustainable Energy (MCSE), representing nearly two dozen of the Commonwealth's largest business, employer, housing, labor, Chamber, and trade associations, we write to urge the Senate to **1) Pass meaningful energy affordability legislation that lowers costs in the near and long term, and 2) Resist efforts to eliminate consumer choice or undermine the reliability of our natural gas system.**

To that end, MCSE is concerned that using an affordability bill as a vehicle to address controversial policy matters such as "obligation to serve" and Gas System Enhancement Plans (GSEPs) would be disastrous for the Commonwealth at a moment both residents and businesses are looking to their representatives for cost relief. For these reasons, we also urge the Senate to reject "securitizing" the Mass Save program as some have proposed.

The Need for Affordability Action

We all understand the need for action. Electricity and gas costs have nearly doubled over the last decade in Massachusetts. Commonwealth ratepayers now face the second highest electricity costs in the Continental US. Rising energy costs make it harder to live, compete and raise a family in Massachusetts – and indeed, they are now the top cost concern among residents according to two key indicators: a [recent Globe poll](#) as well as from an [in-depth survey](#) commissioned by the Commonwealth's Chambers of Commerce.

The Governor and the House of Representatives have put forward proposals to address the sustained and unprecedented energy cost pressure being faced by Massachusetts residents. MCSE's members are committed to achieving the Commonwealth's statutory obligations to



achieve net zero emissions by 2050 – however the coalition strongly believes that any legislation and policies must be grounded in current local and global economic conditions, supply realities and technological constraints.

The Path to Affordability: Reforming Public Policy Programs & Protecting Consumer Choice

We believe that the path to affordability runs directly through reform of public policy programs which have become misaligned with those realities and now represent roughly a quarter of ratepayer bills. MSCE strongly supports the Mass Save program as originally envisioned – a cost-effective energy efficiency program that saves money for ratepayers. Unfortunately, the program has transitioned into a decarbonization program with ballooning costs, resulting in very little direct cost savings to ratepayers. The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) itself has [expressed concern for these growing costs](#) when it approved the current Mass Save budget, recognizing that “bill savings for program participants can no longer be assumed” and that the majority of benefits from the program are no longer economic.

As such, the coalition supports a responsible mid-term budget modification for Mass Save funding and decision to return 70 percent of unused alternative compliance payments (ACP)—roughly \$379 million—to ratepayers will provide immediate relief without slowing Massachusetts’ transition to clean power. Further, MCSE supports provisions improving transparency around cost drivers and bill components and believes these steps are essential to restoring public confidence as clean energy progress lags and costs rise.

Further, while the securitization provisions that have been proposed attempt to alleviate short-term costs, they would put an additional burden on ratepayers by financing the cost of 500,000 heat pumps. Not only would this further increase long-term costs for ratepayers, but the climate impact of such an undertaking is also questionable given the lack of clean power supply.

We urge the Senate to not allow the DPU or other administrative agencies within state government to unilaterally take away the public’s right to choose natural gas service, including existing natural gas service as [some climate activists have suggested](#). Eliminating consumer choice at this fragile economic moment would contradict the Governor’s stated “all-of-the-above” energy strategy and only serve to increase energy prices further. Ignoring these realities would, in our view, be a serious miscalculation of public opinion.

Maintaining a Stable & Reliable System & Expanding Supply

Equally central to affordability is the need to maintain a stable and reliable energy system during this period of transition. As former Chair of the Department of Public Utilities Jamie Van Noststrand has acknowledged, “Gas isn’t going away tomorrow; any transition will take decades.” To that end, as our Coalition has consistently cautioned against in prior proceedings, we would strongly discourage any efforts that would defund or sunset the Gas System Enhancement Program (GSEP). Doing so would risk increasing costs and undermining reliability for residents and employers alike. We urge the Senate to recognize these realities.



In addition, our coalition agrees with Governor Healey that increasing supply to address our energy affordability challenge will be essential in the coming months. As she has said, “Massachusetts and the Northeast need more energy supply for reliability and to lower energy bills.” Further, as a recent executive order acknowledged, “building and connecting new energy supplies and responsibly maintaining efficient, existing assets ensure good paying jobs and supports economic opportunity, a resilient grid, and growth throughout communities in Massachusetts.” As such, her administration’s “all-of-the-above” energy approach is wise to not only expand renewable energy, but also to encompass the acceleration of advanced technologies such as nuclear and fusion development and increasing natural gas supply.

Indeed, the need for additional natural gas supply is underscored by the events of this past winter, where New England burned 66 million gallons of oil from January 24 to February 1 according to ISO New England at astronomical spot market prices. Increasing supply is the surest path to ensure reliable, affordable energy, slowing rate increases, and making us less reliant on diesel oil and spot market dispatchable fuels.

A Moment to Deliver on Affordability

For many years, Massachusetts residents and businesses have looked to Beacon Hill for leadership in confronting climate change. After nearly two decades of climate-focused energy policy and investment, those same families and businesses are now looking to their elected officials for cost relief. It also reflects a practical recognition that public support for long-term decarbonization will erode if policymakers eliminate consumer choices while treating the containment of rising energy costs as incidental rather than central to the success of our clean energy transition.

The Senate now has the opportunity to reinforce the Commonwealth’s commitment to both climate progress and economic competitiveness by advancing this legislation and preserving its singular focus on affordability. At a time when households and employers are seeking measurable relief, we respectfully urge prompt Senate action to deliver it.

Respectfully,



MASS COALITION
for sustainable energy

LiUNA!
NEW ENGLAND REGION *Feel the Power*



Cape Cod Canal Region
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NAIOP
MASSACHUSETTS



North Central
MASSACHUSETTS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Western Mass
Economic Development Council



GBREB
Est. 1889
GREATER BOSTON
REAL ESTATE BOARD


BLACKSTONE VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



MCTA
Massachusetts Chemistry & Technology Alliance