February 6, 2024

Thomas Ferguson, PhD

Energy Storage Programs Manager

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020

Boston, MA 02114

Re: DOER Report and Recommendations (the “Report”) for *Charging Forward: Energy Storage in a Net Zero Commonwealth* (the “Energy Storage Study”)

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

We are writing to strongly endorse the comments, dated January 31, 2024, submitted by Professors Eve Vogel and Regine Amy Spector to DOER on the above-referenced Report.

As we expressed in our prior comments to DOER, dated August 31, 2023, we urge DOER not to make policy decisions based on the Energy Storage Study which would incentivize increased operation of industrial hydropower facilities in the State, particularly operation of the Northfield pumped-storage hydroelectric facility owned by FirstLight Power. Facilities such as Northfield cause severe damage to river ecosystems and the owners of such facilities should not be incentivized to increase their operations and the environmental destruction they cause.

We appreciate DOER’s recognition of the grave concerns held by many Massachusetts residents and environmental groups about high-impact hydro power facilities like Northfield.

Reducing our use of fossil fuels to help mitigate the dire impacts of a fast-warming climate is absolutely necessary; doing so at the cost of destroying our river ecosystems is not.

Sincerely,

Sarah Matthews & Lundy Bancroft

Western Mass Rights of Nature