

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

An important development in the transition to clean energy in Massachusetts was the issuance of the DPU Order related to the electric-sector modernization plans. The Order provides a significant pathway forward for electric companies to put into place the infrastructure needed for a clean energy transition. However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that constructing new infrastructure as well as upgrading or replacing existing infrastructure will have impacts. The framework to assess such impacts must be structured in a way to ensure equity.

We have made progress in Massachusetts in understanding that equity in the energy space cannot be overlooked. I had the privilege to help prepare the [Report](#) entitled “Overly Impacted & Rarely Heard: Community Voices in Energy”. It not only looks at the barriers to meaningful participation in regulatory energy processes, but also lays out over 30 suggested recommendations, some that have already been adopted by Massachusetts energy regulators. In partnership with Blacks in Green, I was part of a team that developed the website [Community Voices In Energy](#), which has a more national focus and provides suggested tools to help people get involved in decisions about energy for their communities. Further, I served on the advisory group to the Massachusetts Siting and Permitting Commission and have intervened and/or filed comments at the Massachusetts DPU on several matters including affordability and utility rate issues. Equity, education, and empowerment are foundational to my work.

As steps are taken to develop a framework to incorporate equity regarding modernizing the grid, it is important to connect the dots relative to the other equity discussions that are occurring in the energy space. This approach may also help to eliminate community confusion regarding what is being done to help ensure equity as infrastructure is constructed to assist in the clean energy transition. For the reasons stated above, I am seeking to become a member of the GMAC Equity Working Group.

Regards,
Jollette Westbrook