September 14th GMAC Meeting Written Public Comments

Written Comments Submitted to MA-GMAC@mass.gov

Submitted Comments

1. Louise Amyot, Greenfield, MA Resident, (lamyot@yahoo.com) – Received 9/08/23.
2. Craig Martin, Shutesbury, MA Resident, (thompsonmartinfamily@gmail.com) – Received 9/13/23.
3. Graham Turk, Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate student, (gturk@mit.edu) – Received 9/14/23.

1. **Louise Amyot, Greenfield, MA Resident, (lamyot@yahoo.com) – Received 9/08/23.**

I am thrilled to know that our electric utilities are planning to update their capacity to service the public with adequate means of providing the growing sources of clean energy that we will need in the coming years.

In the face of the terrible storms and weather crises that we have been experiencing all over the planet, I write to say that I hope that you are all considering expanding this infrastructure ***underground***. Whether facing flooding, hurricanes, fires, drought or even insect infestations, having utilities provided by underground cable will ensure that a) power will not be lost and b) wires will not be causing fires anywhere. Beyond the energy and environmental benefits of such a move, the savings in repairs and lawsuits to the electric companies will add up to enormous savings down the road. I imagine that your companies have already considered underground transmission lines; I simply want to encourage you to follow through with this seriously important move.

Thank you,

Louise Amyot

56 Madison Circle

Greenfield, MA 01301

2. **Craig Martin, Shutesbury, MA Resident, (thompsonmartinfamily@gmail.com) – Received 9/13/23.**

I would like to add my support to the Commonwealth's efforts to modernize the distribution of electric power. As we move more towards replacing fossil fuels with renewably generated electricity, efficiency, reliability, and the economics of distribution will continue to be critical issues. I urge our leadership to work with, but not be driven by, the current electricity providers. I also urge our leaders to not be constrained by small minorities who resist things like smart meters. Granting an opt out to a small class of poorly informed citizenry will inevitably reduce efficiencies, impacting the much larger group of citizens who embrace progress.

Sincerely,

Craig Martin

Shutesbury, MA

3. **Graham Turk, Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate student**

I am an Eversource customer and graduate student at MIT doing research on the grid impacts of EV charging.

In Eversource's 568-page plan, they dedicate 0 pages to redesigning rates that would mitigate or defer the need for distribution and transmission system upgrades and investments in capital-intensive battery storage. There is ample evidence (which I can send if helpful) that if price incentives exist, EV and heat pump customers will shift their load in a way that reduces aggregate peak demand. Eversource conducted their load forecasts under the assumption of flat volumetric rates, which yields an inflated estimate for capacity needed to support electrification. They also ignored the possibility of demand response as a firm capacity resource, which contradicts programs currently offered by ISO New England.

GMAC should recommend that Eversource conduct sensitivity analyses where alternative rate designs and load control are modeled; capital-intensive upgrades should be used only as a last resort after all other solutions to mitigating peak demand have been exhausted.