

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NATALIE M. BLAIS

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### COMMITTEES:

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July 23, 2019

Commissioner Judith Judson  
Department of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge St., Suite 1020  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Judson,

I am writing on behalf of the constituents of the 1<sup>st</sup> Franklin District who have contacted me to voice their concerns about the proposed updates to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Class I and Class II regulations.

We are facing a climate emergency and must take immediate steps to ensure that Massachusetts remains a national leader in clean energy policy. The proposed changes to the RPS regulations would undercut the climate goals set by the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008. As the State Representative for 19 communities spanning three counties in western Massachusetts, I have heard clearly from constituents that the Commonwealth should be focusing its support on programs and policies that protect and promote our working forests in ways that do not move us in the wrong direction when it comes to addressing climate change.

Providing subsidies for the clearing of valuable forests in utility rights of way, for natural gas pipelines and for housing and commercial developments would hinder the Commonwealth's ability to sequester carbon. Rather, the Commonwealth should be subsidizing the sustainability of our working farmland and forests in ways that are proven to help ensure that our water is safe to drink, our food is safe to eat and our air is safe to breathe. The Commonwealth's priority should be taking bold, visionary and immediate actions that will move us towards a renewable energy future and a sustainable economy.

This week, the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) held a hearing on H.2836 - the Massachusetts 100% Renewable Energy Act. Nearly 30 legislators crammed into a jam-packed and very warm hearing room to support this legislation, which was co-sponsored by over 100 legislators. Testimony led by Representatives Marjorie Decker and

Sean Garballey was met with cheers and applause. The message was clear: we are facing a climate emergency and the time to act is way past due.

As stewards of the majority of the Commonwealth's fresh water, clean air and protected forest and farmland, western Massachusetts stands ready to assist the Department in its efforts to move us towards a clean energy future. I do not believe that the proposed changes accomplish that goal and respectfully request that you reconsider. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this testimony. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Blais', with a stylized, cursive script.

Natalie M. Blais  
State Representative  
*1st Franklin District*