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Dear Fellow Massachusetts Citizens,

I am pleased to present to you the first Climate Change Adaptation Report for Massachusetts. The product of many months of research, discussion and analysis by a broad array of practitioners, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and federal, state and local governments, this report fulfills an important mandate of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008.

Developed by the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee, the report provides a framework for assessing a suite of strategic, long-term solutions designed to enable our neighborhoods and natural resources to adapt to climate change at the same time that we strive to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to it. Indeed, this report makes clear that climate change mitigation and adaptation are two sides of the same coin. While we do our part in reducing and stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions in our state, we must also think seriously about how Massachusetts as a state will be impacted by climate change and how to prepare for and respond to it.

The Climate Change Adaptation Report describes the process, principles, findings, and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and presents a first step toward the identification, development, and implementation of strategies to advance Massachusetts' ability to better adapt to a changing climate. Like other coastal states, Massachusetts is faced with increasing sea level rise and storm surges, higher temperatures, and changes in precipitation over the course of this century – all of which could contribute to profound impacts on our coastal infrastructure and businesses, public health, and natural ecosystems in coming years.

Using this report as a solid jumping off point, my staff and our agencies will begin evaluating potential strategies contained in the report and work with stakeholders to prioritize them and assess feasibility of implementation. In addition, we plan to form a stakeholder group that will explore mechanisms for addressing the potential impacts of climate change (such as sea level rise) as part of EEA's Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review process.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the significant undertaking that this report represents, and extend the Administration's gratitude to Committee members and all those who participated in the various subcommittee discussions that informed this report for their time and valued input.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RKS", written over a white background.

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
Secretary