

## Testimony to Energy Hearing Sept 29 2015

Chairmen Downing and Golden, members of the TUE joint committee:

I was unable to stay at yesterday's energy hearing long enough to offer my oral testimony, so I would like to offer the following written testimony in its place.

I wish to support S.1757, H.2851, and H.3532 and oppose portions of H.2881, H.3724, and S.1965 for the reasons given below.

My name is Adele Franks. I am a retired public health physician from Florence MA. After a long and satisfying career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, my husband and I retired here to his home state where we knew the political climate was much more to our liking.

When I retired I decided to explore issues I hadn't had time for before and quickly focused on climate change.

I have come to the realization that the public health issues that occupied me before—prevention and control of infectious diseases, cancer, and heart disease, pale in comparison to the impending public health effects of climate disruption.

Unchecked escalation of global warming will cause not only more severe storms with attendant injuries and deaths, but also increasingly severe droughts in some areas, drastically reducing food production, while in other places increased rain and flooding will also disrupt agricultural productivity. The predictable outcome is food shortages leading to political unrest, and massive migrations of hungry people. Combined with sea level rise causing large scale movement of people out of coastal cities, such as

Boston, it is clear that widespread human misery will ensue. The current refugee crisis in Europe is a drop in the bucket compared with the scale of dislocation that would impact our children and grandchildren.

The science behind this scenario is so compelling that many leading medical and public health organizations have publicly acknowledged the human contribution to climate change and warned of its severe health impacts. This includes a long list of organizations including the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the CDC, and the American Lung Association among many others. At the White House in June, a coalition of dozens of medical and public health organizations called for bold action to curb carbon pollution.

Because the climate system has so much inertia, the effects of today's carbon pollution will continue to warm the climate far into the future. Therefore it is imperative that we make the transition to clean energy quickly. Fortunately we have the technology and the means to do so. What we need is for you on this committee to take bold action without delay.

Most of the renewable energy bills that you have before you contain some good ideas to help our state turn away from fossil fuel reliance. Yet none of the bills is good enough, and most have serious shortcomings. I recommend you use the Mass Power Forward Coalition principles to identify the very best aspects of each and combine them into a comprehensive approach to making a decisive transition to a renewable energy future.

In particular I urge you to support S.1757 that increases the annual rate of increase in the Renewable Portfolio Standard so that we can more quickly adopt the clean energy we need to avoid climate chaos.

I urge you to lift the solar net metering caps and require a fair and transparent process to establish appropriate reimbursement rates for excess solar energy provided to the grid. This means rejecting the provisions of the Governor's bill (H. 3724) that preempt such a fair process and simply reduce reimbursement without consideration of the many benefits of solar.

I urge you to support H.2851 requiring offshore wind energy to augment our renewable energy sourcing of electricity.

And I urge you to reject all provisions that call for additional natural gas pipelines or power plants (such as in H.2881) as they will simply prolong our dependence on that fossil fuel and contribute green house gases to our atmosphere. This would take us backwards instead of forwards.

I urge you to amend the Governor's Hydro power bill S.1965 to require best practices for habitat and human environment protections in building new dams and power transmission lines, and to leave ample room for other renewable and more local forms of green energy.

I also urge you to support the Green bank bill (H.3532) that creates a financing mechanism for renewable energy projects.

Your leadership in moving MA decisively forward into a clean energy future will provide leadership for other states to do the same. The health of the people of MA and beyond depends on your actions at this energy crossroads. Please take that into account as you consider the bills before you.

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