

September 20, 2015

The Honorable Thomas A., Golden, Jr
Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 473B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Eighteen billion dollars in energy payments leave Massachusetts each year, an amount equal to almost half the state's budget. We have the opportunity to capture those dollars and invest them in clean energy projects here in the Commonwealth. Taking action will grow our economy and grow the number of clean energy jobs beyond the existing 90,000.

Your committee is expected to hold public hearings on two upcoming bills, S.1757 and H.2881, that have pieces of the solution:


-- Allowing for a 2,000 MW carve-out for offshore wind will allow that industry to get a toehold and develop the already existing, leased, environmentally studied, and ready for developing in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management offshore wind energy area miles offshore.

-- Fixing solar net metering to match the state's 1600 MW goal and align with federal tax credits. --Authorizing a study of the value of solar to clarify its potential role in providing power to the grid and its potential benefit to residents.-- Ensuring that imported hydroelectric power does not qualify for the Renewable Portfolio Standard and hence drown out in-state clean energy development.

We will not be able to fully capitalize on these benefits unless we increase the RPS by at least 2% annually. This is essential for allowing more homegrown clean energy to be developed and brought online by Massachusetts workers.

Please support legislation that will bring more clean energy to Massachusetts to ensure we continue building the clean energy economy here at home and keep our energy dollars from leaving the state.

Thank you for your consideration.


Rev. Fred Small
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