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VERBAL COMMENTS FOR TUE HEARING

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No Fracked Gas in Mass is a citizens' organization acting to prevent further reliance on fossil fuels for our energy needs. We are a member of Mass Power Forward, a coalition of more than 100 organizations across Massachusetts that have come together because the Commonwealth is at a crossroads on energy policy: the decisions that we make over the next few months will affect the health and economic well-being of our state for decades to come. Our coalition is working together to advocate for a just transition to clean, local energy.

No Fracked Gas in Mass supports these goals and guidelines:

EFFICIENCY

— Maximize energy efficiency and demand reduction

- Using efficiency as a first fuel reduces costs for ALL types of energy infrastructure development by minimizing the amount of generation needed. It is the best hedge against high electric generation and volatile heating costs.
 - Decouple energy efficiency oversight from the utility companies. Leaving implementation of efficiency programs to entities whose sole purpose is to sell energy creates a conflict of interests.
 - Assure that consumers at all levels of income, whether they own or rent, have access to energy efficiency incentives, with scaled cost reduction to help those most in need.

ENERGY GENERATION

— Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard to require 20% local renewable energy by 2020, and 40% local renewable energy by 2030.

— REMOVE ALL CAPS from net metering. These are the energy sources we need to be fully developing, not limiting.

— DO NOT artificially discount the value of solar for municipalities, low-income housing, renters and businesses after the 1600MW level is reached, as proposed in House Bill H 3724. This places artificial disincentives for development of local distributed generation in communities that need it the most.

— Support for low-renewable-generation periods should be provided by an additional 12% of the RPS coming from low-carbon hydroelectricity. These would preferably be from appropriately sited, small-scale local sources, maximizing existing hydro infrastructure to minimize environmental impact.

— Strike down Section 13 of House Bill 2881, which would establish a tariff to support building additional gas pipeline capacity.

- Expanding fossil fuel infrastructure adds to our carbon equivalent footprint, missing the Commonwealth's Global Warming Solutions Act goals and contributing to climate-related weather extremes and health impacts



- Expanding fossil fuel infrastructure weakens the renewable energy and efficiency jobs market - one of the largest employment sectors in the Commonwealth. Investment in long-term infrastructure such as pipelines can have a dampening effect on renewables development for decades into the future.
- Increasing our already dangerously high reliance on fossil fuels leaves ratepayers vulnerable to the highly volatile nature of fuel prices. Renewable energy systems' fuel costs are free.

ENERGY STORAGE

It is alarming to see that none of the bills being considered address energy storage for peak demand periods. This is a crucial piece of the renewable energy puzzle that is being implemented in other areas of the country, including California and nearby in Maine. The Department of Energy Resources should be establishing targets for deployment of storage technology for renewable energy.

Co-Signed by the following organizations:

StopNED
Paula Terrasi, Co-founder

Mass Energy Consumers Alliance
Executive Director, Larry Chretien
Clean Energy Program Director, Eugenia Gibbons

BPVS Berkshire Photovoltaic Services
Christopher Derby Kilfoyle, President

Solar Store of Greenfield
Claire Chang, Proprietor