

9/29/2015

Dear Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy;

Please accept my comments regarding bills S. 1757, H. 2881, S. 1965 and, H. 3724

My name is Polly Ryan and I live in Plainfield, MA. I am an impacted landowner on the proposed NED path and I am opposed to that project. Our energy shortfalls can be met with a diversified energy portfolio that has a strong renewables component. I am having solar panel installed on my house. I have taken full advantage of the Mass Save program including the interest free loan to replace my windows which I wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. I practice energy conservation and efficiency. These implementations and practices have, over time, reduce my heating costs by a third. I personally know of many people in my region whose entire energy consumption is based on renewable energy systems and have a carbon neutral foot print. We are evidence that these technologies and practices work and are accessible when incentives are provided. This is what I support in lieu of continued and more dependence on fossil fuels. I write to encourage you to consider making decisions that continue to promote growth in the renewable energy sector and that are more in line with the goals of the Global Warming Solutions Project.

Here are some bullet point items to consider in evaluating the objectives of these bills.

- Continue to incentivize energy efficiency with consideration for all socioeconomic circumstances.
- Require that utility and gas industries meet efficiency standards especially where gas leaks are concerned.
- Consider having an objective office run programs like Mass Save rather than utility companies.
- Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard so we meet an objective of 20 % renewable energy by 2020 and 40% by 2030 as is closely represented in bill H. 1757 but with provisions that incentivize the use of local energy resources.
- Consider provisions for lifting caps on net metering and the net metering credit structure proposed by the Global Warming Solutions Project.
- Please do not consider tariffs where by electric customers pay for new gas pipeline infrastructure as in bill H. 2881. The gas companies can afford to build their own pipeline! It's criminal enough to allow eminent domain in these circumstances for their private gain.
- I support the offshore wind component in the H. 2881 bill.
- Please consider the standards the Global Warming Solutions Project has proposed where Hydro generation is concerned which is most closely represented in bill S. 1965 while providing provisions for environmental best practices.
- Consider energy storage technologies as this makes renewable energies more effective and reliable.

I support meeting the standards of our Global Warming Solutions Act which cannot be achieved while promoting additional fossil fuel dependence. Our local economy will benefit more from the long term employment opportunities the renewable industry has to offer over short term gas pipeline construction jobs. Our grandchildren's most precious natural resource is air and water. It is vital to our existence that the preservation of these resources be considered in the overall energy plan.

Thanks you for this consideration,

Polly Ryan
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