

Dear *Representative Thomas Golden, Chairman*

I'm writing in support of H2881 *An Act to promote energy diversity*, of which Representative Patricia A. Haddad is the lead sponsor.

For too long, Massachusetts has been at the end of the energy pipeline, paying high transmission costs. Natural gas shortages in winter causes unaffordable spikes in the price of electricity. The impending closures of several power plants mean the region will soon face an energy shortage.

But we have an opportunity to change this. *An Act to promote energy diversity* will establish a new offshore wind industry that would generate electricity off our coast, dramatically reducing transmission costs while hardly being seen. It will bring more gas into the region and allow for the importation of a minimal amount of big hydro power to diversify our energy portfolio.

This bill is important to our energy future, but also to our economy. By establishing a new industry here in Massachusetts, we can grow jobs and raise local revenues along the South Coast, where unemployment is higher. A competing proposal that calls for twice as much big hydro would send these jobs to Canada while increasing transmission costs for ratepayers.

Let's not miss this chance to take control of our energy future while growing our economy. Pass *An Act to promote energy diversity* and put the South Coast back to work.

Sincerely,

William P. Mathieu Jr.
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