



June 13, 2022

The Honorable Jeffrey N. Roy House Chair,  
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy  
State House Room 42 Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett Senate Chair,  
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy  
State House Room 109D Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Tackey Chan House Chair,  
Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure  
State House Room 43 Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Cynthia S. Creem  
Senate Majority Leader  
State House Room 312A Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Bradley H. Jones, Jr. House Minority Leader  
State House Room 124 Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr Senate Minority Leader  
State House Room 308 Boston, MA 02133

**RE: H.4524, S.2842**

Dear Members of the Conference Committee:

Thank you for your leadership and hard work on clean energy legislation to address the climate crisis and continue Massachusetts' national leadership role. We are writing on behalf of the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association, Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 12, the New England Mechanical Contractors Association, and the Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors of Massachusetts. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and respectfully offer the following recommendations to the Conference Committee on **H.4524 An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy, and S.2842 An Act driving climate policy forward**. Specifically, we would like to state our strong opposition to section 52 of S.2842 An Act driving climate policy forward.

As a representatives of heating and cooling and construction Industry in Massachusetts, we have the utmost respect for the Senate's willingness to craft Climate legislation that involves the input of conscientious citizens, industry experts across sectors, organized labor, chambers of commerce and the business community to determine what is the right fit for our state.

Our work is making clear that sustainably reducing emissions in key areas, such as the building sector, must acknowledge the realities of key constraints such as cost, consumer acceptance, the adequacy of our power supply and the entire portfolio of viable options that exist to lower carbon emissions.

Specifically, **we strongly urge you to resist measures that would allow individual communities to require only all electric new construction and prohibit the installation of gas pipeline infrastructure.** These types of policies not only presume there is an unlimited clean affordable supply of power; they also make the **equally wrong assumption that existing pipeline infrastructure cannot be a source of decarbonized energy in the future.**

We know from our work as stakeholders in the DPU future of natural gas proceedings and by participating in the DoER stretch energy code process that the Commonwealth is best served by multiple decarbonization pathways. It is vitally important to increase our clean power generation sources and establishing clean wind power industry is one of the best ways to get there and realize large economies of scale. We also know from the work of our thousands of workers who have installed and maintain the Commonwealth's transmission and distribution pipeline infrastructure that new renewable energy sources like hydrogen and renewable natural gas are viable decarbonizing pathways that avoid billions of dollars in new costs and broaden the portfolio of options that can actually get us to net-zero outcomes.

Allowing these pilot communities to ban natural gas would only further frustrate the potential for achievable and affordable emission reduction solutions by subject matter experts and impacted stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Andrew DeAngelo  
Executive Director  
Greater Boston PCA

Timothy Fandel  
Business Manager  
Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 12

Stephen Affanato  
Executive Director  
New England Mechanical  
Contractors Association

Wayne Thomas  
Executive Director  
PHCC of MA.