

April 5, 2022

The Honorable Karen Spilka  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Barrett  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Rodrigues  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Spilka, Senator Barrett and Senator Rodrigues:

**RE: Senate Climate Bill**

On behalf of the New England Mechanical Contractors Association (MCA) whose contractors employ thousands of union Plumbers and Pipefitters throughout the Commonwealth of MA, I 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.

The enactment of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021 is a broad and monumental law that sets forth aggressive carbon reduction emissions objectives. Chapter 8 also thoughtfully establishes several processes and proceedings by which the steps necessary to achieve broad objectives are actually implemented in the Commonwealth after considering the input of experts, regulators, consumers and those who work in the energy, building and development industries. Much of this work is underway and running in parallel to other state ordered activities like the Clean Heat Commission and the Department of Public Utilities inquiry into the future of natural gas.

As a participant in many of these formal commissions and activities I urge you to support the efforts that have been underway and allow this work to conclude with the respective rules, recommendations, findings and robust information that will not only implement Chapter 8 but inform further and future policy considerations by both the House and Senate.

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.**

I know from my own work as a stakeholder 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 union 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.

Obviating the good work that is now underway to implement Chapter 8 further frustrates the potential for achievable and affordable emission reduction solutions by subject matter experts and impacted stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen P. Affanato', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen P Affanato  
Executive Vice President  
New England Mechanical Contractors Association