

APPENDIX A – NECEC’S CLIMATE BILL PRIORITIES

NECEC Supports the Following Provisions of the Climate Bills (S.2842 and H.4524)

Offshore Wind Procurement (Sections 20-22 of H.4524 & Sections 50 and 68 of S.2842)

NECEC advocates for continuing the expeditious deployment of the already-procured offshore wind and we are committed to ensuring the offshore wind industry can flourish in New England. It is important to increase our offshore wind commitments to maintain our standing among national leaders, drive cost and emissions reductions, and stimulate in-state economic development. Solidifying our commitments to procuring clean resources, including relaxing the so-called price cap will ensure industry confidence and cultivate greater competition for quality projects and bids over both the near and long-term. NECEC supports the provisions in House Bill 4524 and Senate Bill 2842 which would expand on our commitment to offshore wind.

MassCEC Funding (Sections 9, with amendments and 13-14 of H.4524 & Sections 9 and 67 of S.2842)

To fully realize the Commonwealth’s potential to drive the next chapter of clean energy innovation, in energy storage, renewables, building technology and more, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (“MassCEC”) requires lasting commitment from the public sector. MassCEC is vital to accelerating private sector innovation and bringing public resources and partnership to bear. MassCEC has long been a valuable asset to the Commonwealth and entrusting it with the duty of investing these public dollars is appropriate and wise. For more than a decade, MassCEC has built an impressive body of work as a steward of public dollars, a partner with private capital, a workforce engine and a strong collaborator with stakeholders across the clean energy community. NECEC supports the creation of a gas systems benefit charge to secure sustainable funding for MassCEC, but cautions against dedicating any portion of MassCEC funding towards any one sector of the clean energy economy, and we respectfully request that MassCEC funding be provided unencumbered.

Equity and Environmental Justice (Section 11A of H.4524 & Sections 8 and 76 of S.2842)

NECEC believes that commitments to equity, Environmental Justice, and Energy Justice must be woven into all our policies. Considering the totality of the impact of each of the supported bills and how those can be enhanced to improve equitable outcomes will ensure that our transition to a just clean energy economy benefits all communities. Therefore, NECEC supports the provisions in House Bill 4524 & Senate Bill 2842 that look to improve the environment, opportunities, and injustices that these communities have faced for far too long. Specifically, language to improve air quality monitoring in EJ communities is vital.

Energy Storage (Sections 19, and 25-26 of H.4524)

Energy storage, in all of its technology types, duration lengths, and business models, will be needed to integrate renewables and optimize grid usage. Energy storage technology represents a significant opportunity to build a more resilient, dynamic, and cost-effective electricity system. NECEC supports the language to authorize a procurement for long-duration and multi-day energy storage, which would provide certainty to this emerging sector of the industry.

We also support the language to ensure energy storage charging rates are not overly burdensome. We do request one change in this language (Section 25). On line 894, we request that *or* be changed to *and*. This would ensure that both retail and wholesale energy storage project rate designs are addressed, not one or the other.

Net Metering (Sections 44-45 of S.2842)

Rapidly and affordably scaling up Massachusetts' solar PV resources is an essential component to achieve our climate and clean energy goals. In the Next Generation Roadmap bill, net metering was expanded for most behind-the-meter solar resources, but solar between 10 kilowatts and 60 kilowatts were not afforded this expanded eligibility, while resources both larger and smaller were. Action is needed to build upon the provisions of the Next Generation Roadmap bill to close the so-called net metering loophole for small projects.

Regional Clean Energy Procurement (Section 62 of S.2842)

Regional procurements for clean energy resources encourage collaboration and efficiencies of scale. Allowing DOER to study and report on the merits of such procurements will allow us to assess undertaking these procurements in coordination with our neighbors. As we operate on a regional grid, this has the potential to deliver benefits broadly across New England.

Transportation (Sections 34, 38- 39, 52-53, 56-57, 67 and 78 of S.2842)

The transportation sector is the largest GHG emitter in the state. It is imperative that we begin implementing policies to achieve cost-effective emissions reductions while at the same time leading the transition to a clean transportation future. Clean transportation policies for Massachusetts can energize the economy, create new jobs and a new sector of the clean economy, improve public health, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the aging and inefficient transportation system. NECEC supports provisions that would encourage the adoption of Zero-Emission Vehicles ("ZEVs"), such as those that require the MBTA to electrify passenger buses and that plan for the decarbonization of transportation network companies.

Building Sector Emissions (Section 34 of S.2842)

Increased focus on electrification elevates the importance of energy efficiency and continued need to evolve the programs and policies to tackle hard-to-reach segments or innovative strategies to benefit the Commonwealth. However, the built environment, which is the source of more than a quarter of our climate pollution, is a key sector that requires significant changes to decarbonize. This section requires emissions reporting for certain buildings across the Commonwealth. This is important to understanding the emissions of the building sector, but we will need to go further and require emissions reductions across the state.