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April 4, 2022

The Honorable Karen Spilka
State House
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Barrett
State House
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Rodriques
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Spilka, Senator Barrett and Senator Rodriques:

RE: Senate Climate Bill

We have great respect for the hard work and seriousness of purpose that the Senate has brought to address climate related challenges. 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 participants in many of these formal commissions and activities we urge you to support the efforts that 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.

Attached to this letter is a data summary from ISO New England of electric wholesale electricity rates and the carbon emissions resulting from the energy sources that generated that power. Simply put, there's very bad news here that should carefully inform your deliberations moving forward. January's wholesale electric rates were basically the highest they have ever been on a sustained basis and the emissions from the energy sources that generated that electricity were dramatically higher than

previous January's. Why you ask because during peak periods of energy need, we are consuming the dirtiest of fuels, at the highest of prices to make electricity.

Electrical power does not grow on trees and electrification objectives that do not acknowledge power supply constraints and realities might be well intended but nonetheless rhetorical. Please do not exacerbate the January high cost and high emissions energy spiral but creating unrealistic demands for new power that doesn't exist and won't for some time.

Specifically, we 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 own work on the Clean Heat Commission, as a stakeholder in the DPU future of natural gas proceeding 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 brothers and sisters who have installed and maintain our 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.

January's wholesale electricity cost and emissions results could easily become more sustained and worse. Ignoring real time constraints and limiting carbon reduction sources in favor of only one is exactly how to get there. Similarly, 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 that reads "Thomas P. Kerr, Jr." in a cursive style.

Thomas P. Kerr, Jr
Business Manager/FST