

Town of Canton, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
CHARLES J. ASPINWALL

March 7, 2017

Honorable Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the House
Massachusetts State House
Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Stanley Rosenberg, Senate President
Massachusetts State House
Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Rosenberg:

We write to you as municipal leaders of our community who, through energy efficiency upgrades, clean energy projects, and the adoption of effective policies and programs, are leading the charge against the effects of reported climate change. We acknowledge the Legislature's rejection last session of the utility-proposed pipeline tax and urge you to continue to respect the relevant August ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court.

To that end and on behalf of our shared constituents, we ask you to support legislation that will:

- Prohibit the imposition of a separate pipeline tax on gas and electric customers in Massachusetts, and
- Prioritize greater investment in energy efficiency/demand response, renewable resources and energy storage.

These provisions will benefit the residents in our communities and are in line with the clean energy visions we share for our cities and towns.

As you know, the Commonwealth must take appropriate action to meet the requirements of the existing Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). According to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website, the GWSA, signed in August of 2008, "created a framework for reducing heat-trapping emissions to levels that scientists believe give us a decent chance of avoiding the worst effects of global warming. It requires reductions from all sectors of the economy to reach a target of a 25% reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050."

Substantial increases in our state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that conflict with the GWSA should be avoided, while at the same time balancing the interests of residents and businesses who demand and deserve access to renewable energy at affordable rates.

In that regard, the adoption of a separate pipeline tax rather than investor-funded infrastructure – whether by electric utilities or gas utilities contracting for pipeline capacity – will burden all ratepayers regardless of where they live.

Our cities and towns are leading by example, achieving substantial GHG emission reductions. The Town of Canton, for example, has one of the largest solar “park” arrays in New England. The facility, consisting of nearly 20,000 solar photovoltaic panels spread over 15 acres of its capped landfill, generates 5.6 megawatts of electricity. Canton's solar facility has provided clean and reliable energy that benefits the region since 2012. Our community's initiative in turn contributes to Massachusetts' ability to meet its GWSA mandate and its commitments to clean energy growth.

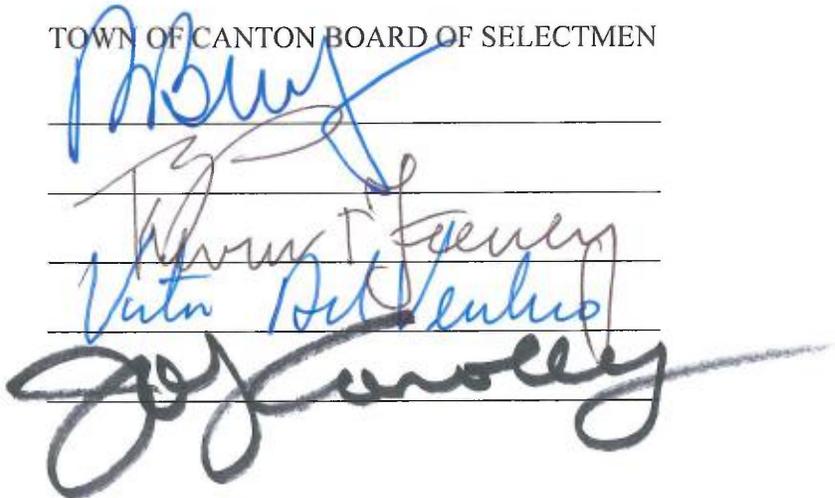
Thus, we stand in support of exploring additional opportunities to reduce consumption and costs even further, and in opposition to any proposal that attempts to circumvent the SJC ruling by imposing a separate tax on our residents and businesses.

Massachusetts must lead by example in pursuit of clean energy and climate action, propelled by the work of cities and towns like ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF CANTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The image shows four handwritten signatures in blue ink, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are: 1. A stylized signature that appears to be 'Alamy'. 2. A signature that appears to be 'Thomas T. Feeney'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'Vito DeLuca'. 4. A large, bold signature that appears to be 'Joe Amodeo'.

cc: Honorable House Members
Honorable Senators