



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**JAY D. LIVINGSTONE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

8TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT

Committees:  
Vice Chair, Public Service  
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure  
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July 25, 2018

Rep. Thomas Golden, Chair  
Joint Committee on Telecommunications,  
Utilities and Energy  
State House, Room 473 B  
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Patricia Haddad, Speaker Pro Tempore  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
State House, Room 370  
Boston, MA 02133

Rep. Bradley Jones, Minority Leader  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
State House, Room 124  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Marc Pacheco, Chair  
Senate Committee on Global Warming and  
Climate Change  
State House, Room 312-B  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael Barrett, Chair  
Joint Committee on Telecommunications,  
Utilities and Energy  
State House, Room 416  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Patrick O'Connor, Conferee  
Renewable Energy Conference Committee  
State House, Room 520  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: H.4576/S.2608 - An Act to increase renewable energy and reduce high-cost peak hours**

Dear Conferees,

I am writing to you today to express my gratitude for your hard work on the omnibus renewable energy package that has passed through both chambers. As you work toward a compromise in conference, I want to focus on increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard. I appreciate the inclusion of an increase in the House bill and a faster increase to two percent that was adopted through the amendment process. I support setting a 3% annual growth rate for RPS as soon as possible.

RPS has been integral to our greenhouse gas emission reductions and our commitment to the GWSA. It has also contributed to a substantial and growing part of the economy of Massachusetts. According to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, over 100,000

Massachusetts residents are employed in the clean energy industry. Finally, it has contributed to energy price stability, which is good news for consumers.

Massachusetts used to be a leader on RPS, but over time, other states have surpassed us with states like Vermont, New York, and California leading the flock. It is important for us to push ahead and catch up with other states to meet our clean energy goals. An annual increase of 3%, which would get us to 50% RPS by 2030, would create jobs and provide a benefit to the economy while once again making us a leader on clean energy.

The last point that I will make is the popularity of the idea. Massachusetts residents are ready to increase the RPS annual rate. In an informal Boston Globe poll last year, respondents were overwhelmingly in favor of 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy economy-wide by 2050. A 2017 WBUR poll shows a large leap in concern about climate change and its affects. We will not achieve these goals without a steep increase in the RPS annual rate.

I appreciate your time and consideration and I hope that the conference committee will include this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jay Livingstone  
State Representative  
8<sup>th</sup> Suffolk District