

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## House of Representatives

State House, Boston 02133-1054

March 14, 2016

Honorable Brian S. Dempsey  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Thomas A. Golden  
State House, Room 473B  
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Bradley H. Jones  
State House, Room 124  
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H.3854/S.2058 *An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change*

Dear Chairman Dempsey, Chairman Golden and Minority Leader Jones:

We wish to express our appreciation for your efforts to pass legislation that seeks to promote cost-effective solar energy growth and sets the Commonwealth on a path to meet its Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) requirements.

Following the vote on H.3854 in November, our offices have been contacted by constituents, municipalities and businesses that are concerned this legislation will lead to job losses, jeopardize environmental progress, and raise electricity bills. We respectfully request that you address these critical issues in the Conference Committee, and that the committee report a bill to raise the net metering caps as expeditiously as possible.

In particular, we are concerned that sharp cuts to net metering credit value will irreparably harm Massachusetts' solar industry and its 15,000 employees. Resetting all new solar projects to the wholesale net metering credit rate will make it prohibitively difficult to finance low-income, community shared solar or municipal projects. In addition, the transition to the wholesale rate for existing projects, while 20 years down the road, will lead to major bill increases for municipalities and other solar customers. Finally, we have heard significant concerns about the provision creating a "minimum monthly reliability contribution" and the impacts that could have on existing solar customers and future solar growth.

In our view, a strong net metering policy, at a minimum, calls for maintaining retail net metering credit value for preferred classes of projects, such as (1) community shared solar, (2) projects that serve low-income housing and low-income ratepayers and (3) municipalities until an official, publicly scrutinized analysis of costs and benefits has been completed. In addition, we ask the Conference Committee to ensure grandfathering of existing systems. We also are in favor of the inclusion of new or expanded programs to achieve solar equity for low-income residents.

We support your desire to reduce costs. However, it is important to note that net metering credits are not subsidies, but rather compensation for the value provided by solar generation exported to the grid. The

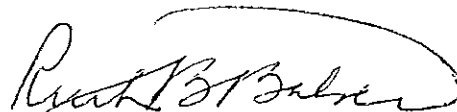
state's Massachusetts Net Metering & Solar Task Force determined last year that for every dollar solar costs ratepayers, it returns \$2.20 in benefits. Therefore, we hope you will look to reduce costs not by arbitrarily cutting the net metering credit value, but rather by reforming the SREC program, which was designed to be an incentive for solar development.

We hope you can advance a bill to a floor vote at the earliest opportunity, in order to restore investments in our communities and allow businesses to rehire workers who lost their jobs as a result of the net metering caps. Even more urgency has been added now that the Department of Energy Resources has reported that SREC II has reached full capacity, so we must make progress on a successor program. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best Regards,



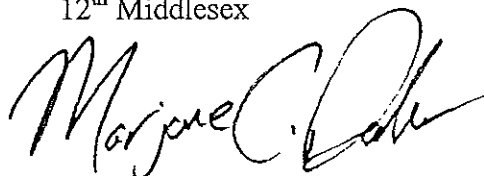
Cory Atkins  
14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Ruth B. Balsler  
12<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



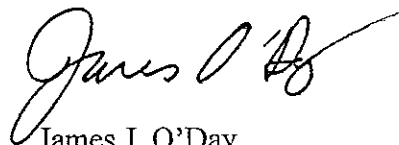
Jennifer E. Benson  
37<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Marjorie C. Decker  
25<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Kay Khan  
11<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



James J. O'Day  
14<sup>th</sup> Worcester



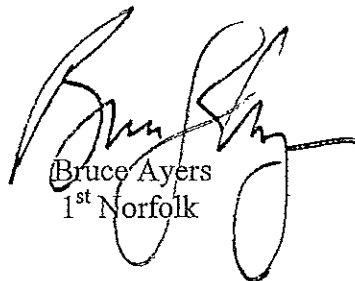
Smitty Pignatelli  
4<sup>th</sup> Berkshire



James Arciero  
2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex



Brian Ashe  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hampden



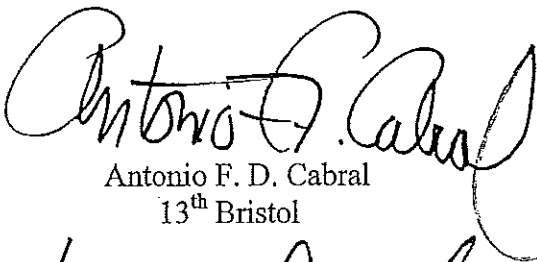
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1<sup>st</sup> Norfolk

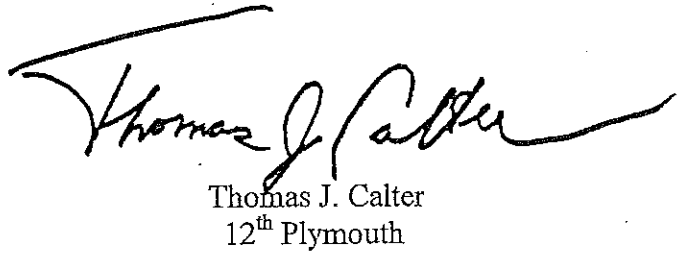


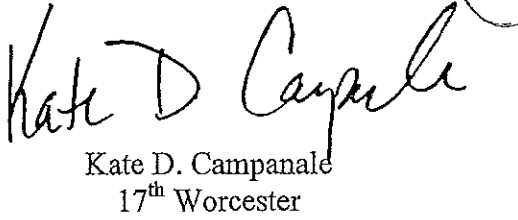
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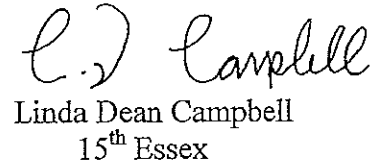


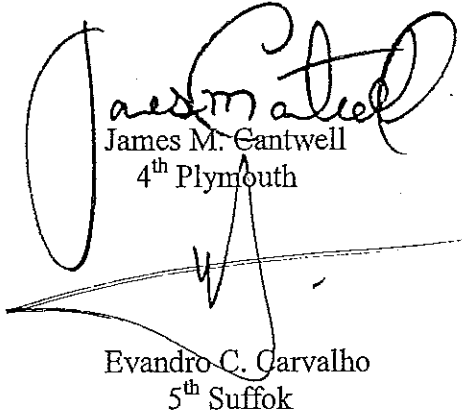
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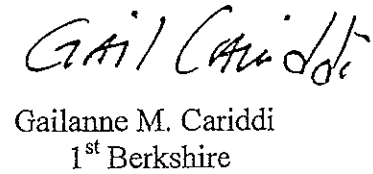
  
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Thomas J. Calter  
12<sup>th</sup> Plymouth

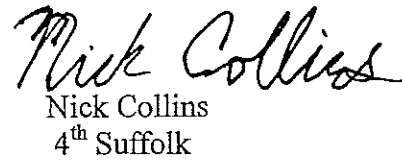
  
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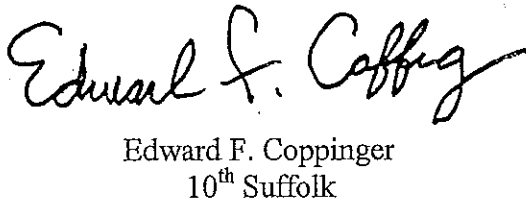
  
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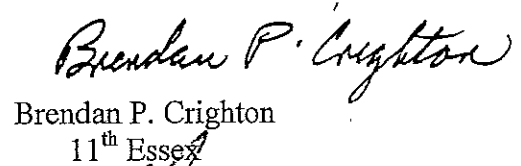
  
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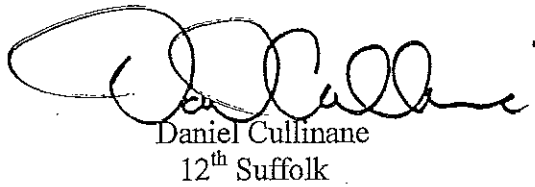
  
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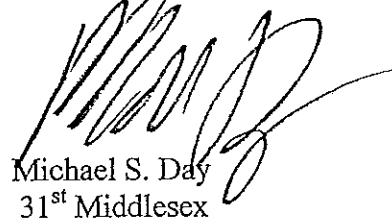
  
Evandro C. Carvalho  
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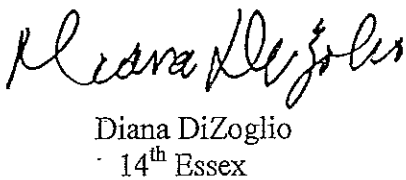
  
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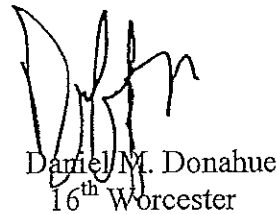
  
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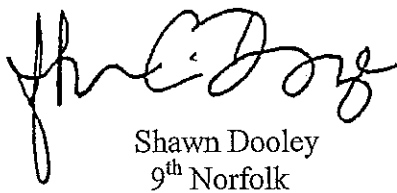
  
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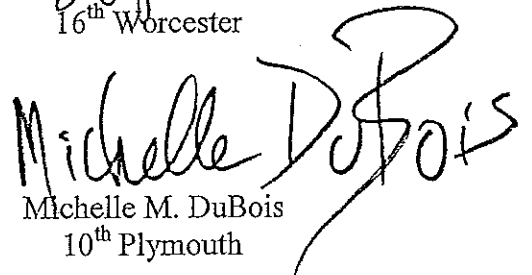
  
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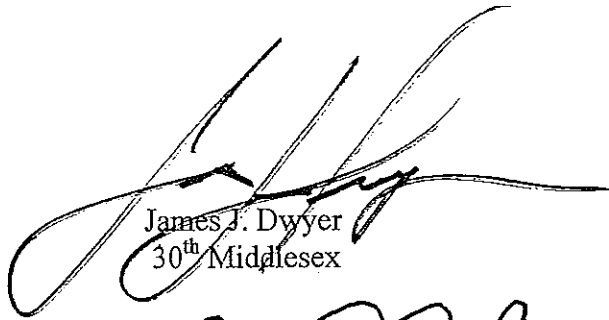
  
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31<sup>st</sup> Middlesex

  
Diana DiZoglio  
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Shawn Dooley  
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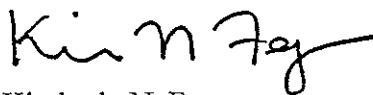
  
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10<sup>th</sup> Plymouth



James J. Dwyer  
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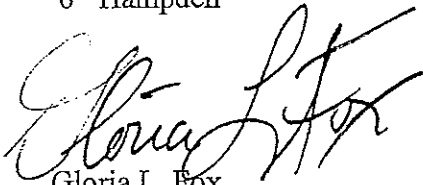
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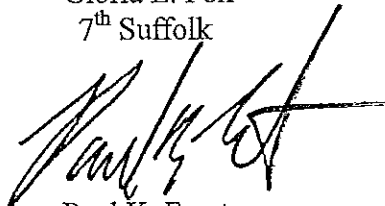
Kimberly N. Ferguson  
1<sup>st</sup> Worcester



Michael J. Finn  
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Gloria L. Fox  
7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk



Paul K. Frost  
7<sup>th</sup> Worcester



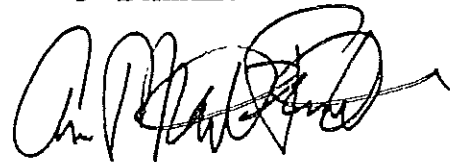
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Carolyn C. Dykema  
8<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



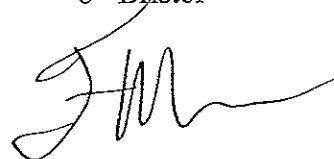
Tricia Farley-Bouvier  
3<sup>rd</sup> Berkshire



Ann-Margaret Ferrante  
5<sup>th</sup> Essex



Carole A. Fiola  
6<sup>th</sup> Bristol



Frank A. Moran  
17<sup>th</sup> Essex



Sean Garballey  
23<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex



Colleen M. Garry  
36<sup>th</sup> Middlesex

Carmine L. Gentile  
13<sup>th</sup> Middlesex

Kenneth I. Gordon  
21<sup>st</sup> Middlesex

Sheila C. Harrington  
1<sup>st</sup> Middlesex

Jonathian Hecht  
29<sup>th</sup> Middlesex

Paul R. Heroux  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bristol

Bradford R. Hill  
4<sup>th</sup> Essex

Kate Hogan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex

Russell E. Holmes  
6<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Kevin G. Honan  
17<sup>th</sup> Suffolk

Louis L. Kafka  
8<sup>th</sup> Norfolk

Hannah Kane  
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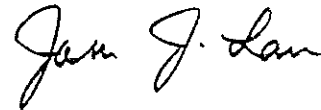
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Peter V. Kocot  
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Robert M. Koczera  
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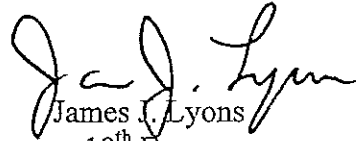
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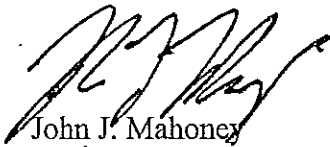
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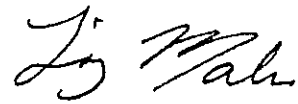
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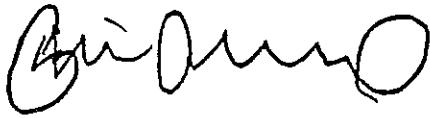
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Elizabeth A. Malia  
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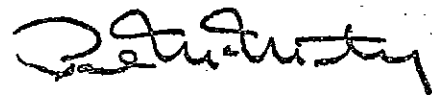
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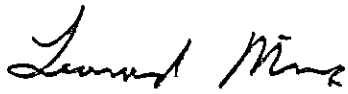
Paul W. Mark  
2<sup>nd</sup> Berkshire



Christopher M. Markey  
9<sup>th</sup> Bristol



Paul McMurtry  
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Leonard Mirra  
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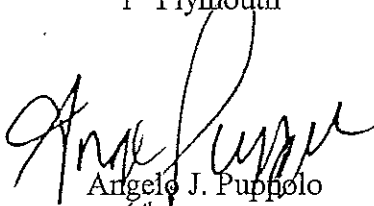
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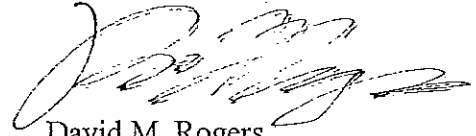
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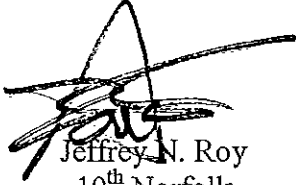
Denise Provost  
27<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Angelo J. Puppolo  
12<sup>th</sup> Hampden



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Jeffrey N. Roy  
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Daniel J. Ryan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk



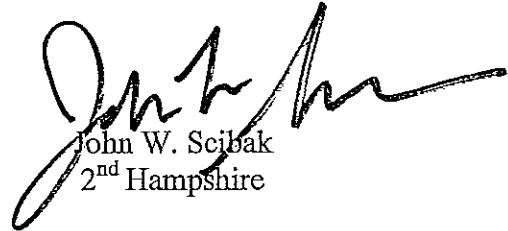
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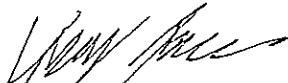
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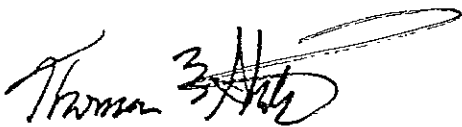
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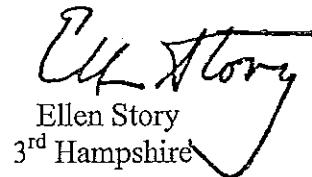
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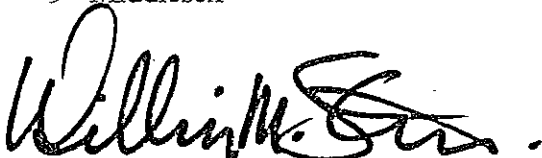
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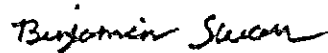
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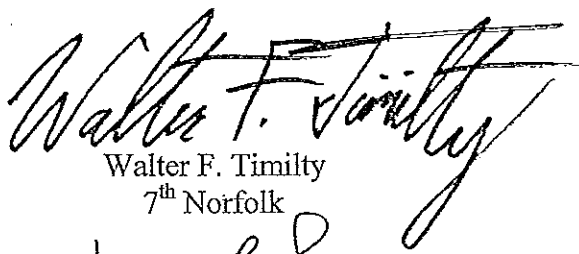
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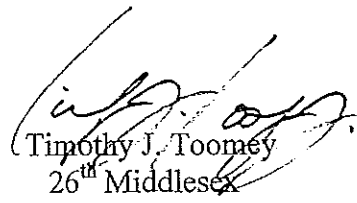
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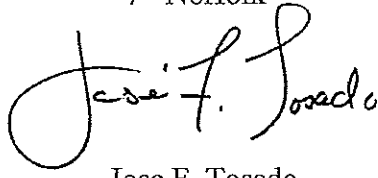
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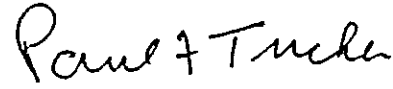
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Timothy J. Toomey  
26<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Jose F. Tosado  
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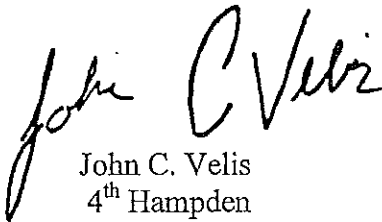
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Steven Ultrino  
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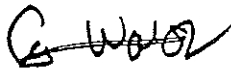
Aaron Vega  
5<sup>th</sup> Hampden



John C. Velis  
4<sup>th</sup> Hampden



RoseLee Vincent  
16<sup>th</sup> Suffolk



Chris Walsh  
6<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Jonathan D. Zlotnik  
2<sup>nd</sup> Worcester





Danielle W. Gregoire  
4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex



Aaron Michlewitz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Suffolk