

June 13, 2018

Massachusetts Senate

**Re: Amendment #10 to S.2545, Peak Rate Options to Reduce Customer Costs and Lower Overall Peak Demand**

Dear Senators:

The twenty-five undersigned organizations are writing in support of Amendment #10 to S.2545, titled “Peak Rate Options to Reduce Customer Costs and Lower Overall Peak Demand,” filed by Majority Leader Cynthia Creem.

Over the past decade, Massachusetts has had success ramping up overall energy efficiency investments and promoting the development of renewable energy. While these programs have successfully provided peak demand reductions, it is clear that there are additional opportunities to address these peaks that drive so much of the Commonwealth’s energy costs. Adoption and promotion of optional on-peak/off-peak rates, as required by Amendment #10, is an important way of providing improved incentives for ratepayers to manage peak demand through a wide variety of methods, including management of energy usage, advanced energy storage, smarter energy efficiency investment, local clean energy generation such as solar, and electric vehicle charging at off-peak times.

Unlike previous options in Massachusetts, Amendment #10 includes requirements to educate customers about this new optional rate and make it easy for customers to sign up. Such a program of optional on-peak/off-peak rates does not require smart meters, but Amendment #10 does provide for a potential transition to opt-out time-varying rates if approved by the Department of Public Utilities, and appropriate consideration and protection of low-income ratepayers.

Eversource currently offers this type of rate in Connecticut and National Grid offers this type of rate in New York. Massachusetts residents should be offered the same opportunities and incentives to reduce peak demand and lower overall electricity system costs.

Respectfully,

Mark LeBel  
Acadia Center

Eric Wilkinson  
Environmental League of Massachusetts

Emily Norton  
Sierra Club

Jane Winn  
Berkshire Environmental Action Team

Tracy Manzella  
Citizens Against the Rehoboth Compressor  
Station

Adele Franks  
Climate Action Now

Larry Yu  
Climate Coalition of Somerville

Berl Hartman  
E2 – New England Chapter

Alice Arena  
Fore River Residents Against the  
Compressor Station

Bob Armstrong  
Franklin County CPR Climate Crisis Task  
Force

Steven Nutter  
Green Cambridge

Bill Ravanese  
Health Care Without Harm

Ricki Pappo  
Lexington Global Warming Action  
Committee

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin  
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Carol Oldham  
Massachusetts Climate Action Network

Mark Sandeen  
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Katy Eiseman  
Massachusetts Pipeline Awareness Network

Pat Larson  
North Quabbin Energy

Jeanne Krieger  
Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts

Wendy Graca  
South Coast Neighbors United

Kaat Vander Straeten  
Transition Wayland

Claire Miller  
Toxics Action Center

Paula Garcia  
Union of Concerned Scientists

Sean Garren  
Vote Solar

Statewide Steering Team  
350 Mass for a Better Future