

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.

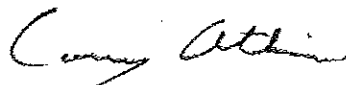
In our view, a strong net metering policy, at a minimum, calls for maintaining retail net metering credit value for preferred classes of projects, such as (1) community shared solar, (2) projects that serve low-income housing and low-income ratepayers and (3) municipalities until an official, publicly 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

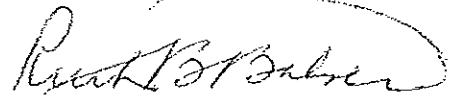
state's Massachusetts Net Metering & Solar Task Force determined last year that for every dollar solar costs ratepayers, it returns \$2.20 in benefits. Therefore, we hope you will look to reduce costs not by arbitrarily cutting the net metering credit value, but rather by reforming the SREC program,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



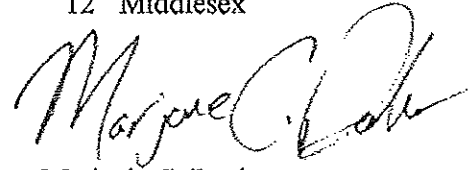
Cory Atkins
14th Middlesex



Ruth B. Balsler
12th Middlesex



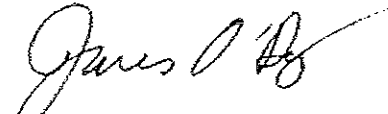
Jennifer E. Benson
37th Middlesex



Marjorie C. Decker
25th Middlesex



Kay Khan
11th Middlesex



James J. O'Day
14th Worcester



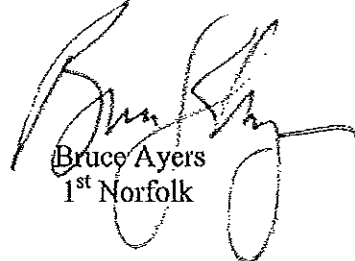
Smitty Pignatelli
4th Berkshire



James Arciero
2nd Middlesex



Brian Ashe
2nd Hampden



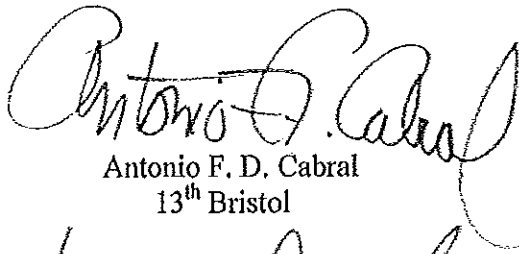
Bruce Ayers
1st Norfolk



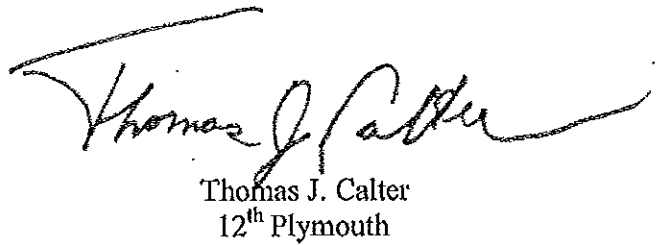
Christine P. Barber
34th Middlesex



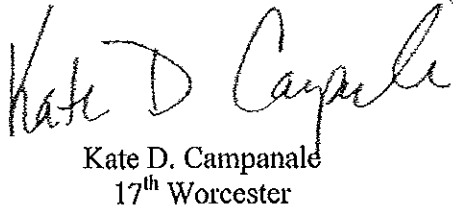
Paul Brodeur
32nd Middlesex



Antonio F. D. Cabral
13th Bristol



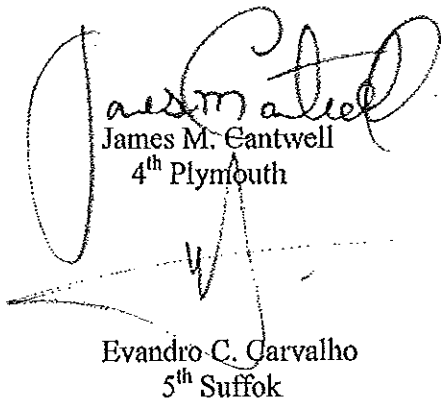
Thomas J. Calter
12th Plymouth



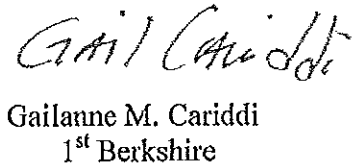
Kate D. Campanale
17th Worcester



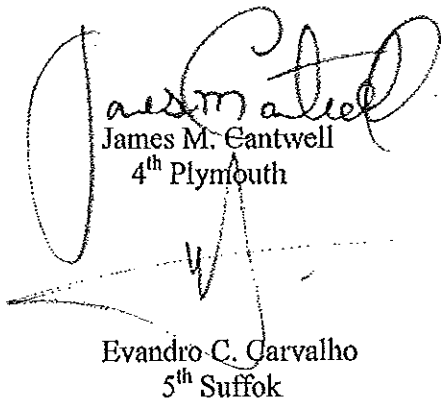
Linda Dean Campbell
15th Essex




James M. Cantwell
4th Plymouth



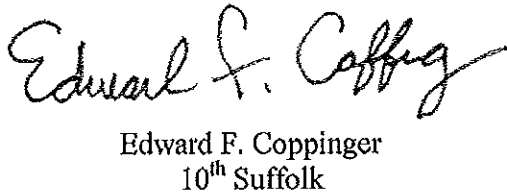
Gailanne M. Cariddi
1st Berkshire



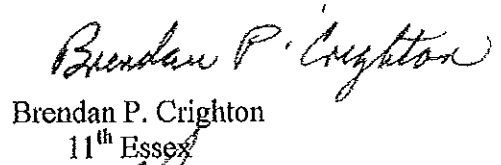
Evandro C. Carvalho
5th Suffolk



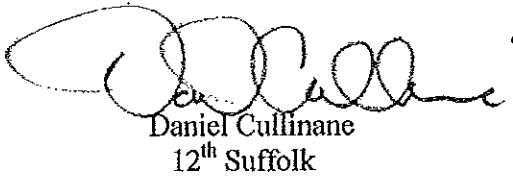
Nick Collins
4th Suffolk



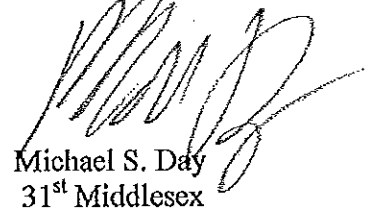
Edward F. Coppinger
10th Suffolk



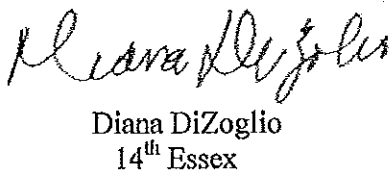
Brendan P. Crighton
11th Essex



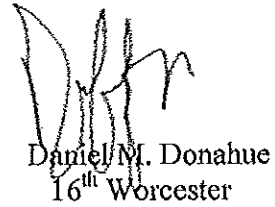
Daniel Cullinane
12th Suffolk



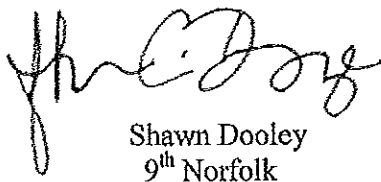
Michael S. Day
31st Middlesex



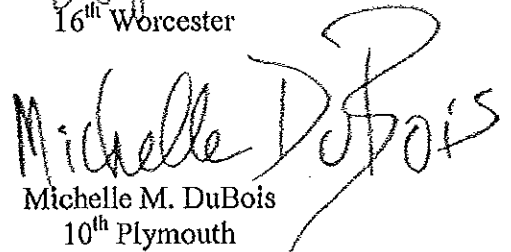
Diana DiZoglio
14th Essex



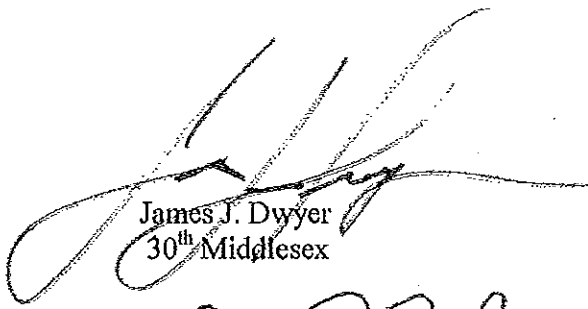
Daniel M. Donahue
16th Worcester



Shawn Dooley
9th Norfolk



Michelle M. DuBois
10th Plymouth



James J. Dwyer
30th Middlesex



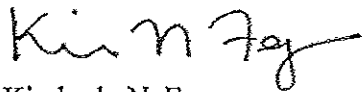
Carolyn C. Dykema
8th Middlesex



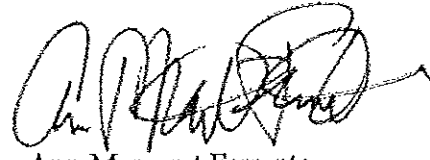
Lori A. Ehrlich
8th Essex



Tricia Farley-Bouvier
3rd Berkshire



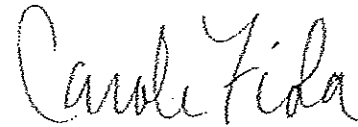
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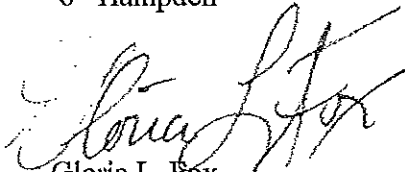
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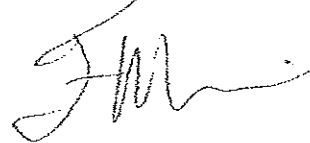
Michael J. Finn
6th Hampden



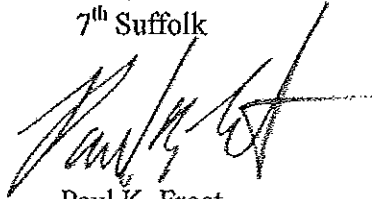
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6th Bristol



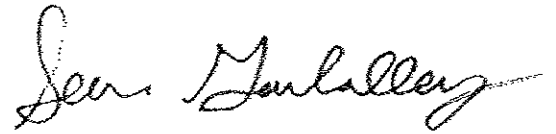
Gloria L. Fox
7th Suffolk



Frank A. Moran
17th Essex



Paul K. Frost
7th Worcester



Sean Garballey
23rd Middlesex



Denise C. Garlick
13th Norfolk



Colleen M. Garry
36th Middlesex

Carmine L. Gentile
13th Middlesex

Kenneth I. Gordon
21st Middlesex

Sheila C. Harrington
1st Middlesex

Jonathan Hecht
29th Middlesex

Paul R. Heroux
2nd Bristol

Bradford R. Hill
4th Essex

Kate Hogan
3rd Middlesex

Russell E. Holmes
6th Suffolk

Kevin G. Honan
17th Suffolk

Louis L. Kafka
8th Norfolk

Hannah Kane
11th Worcester

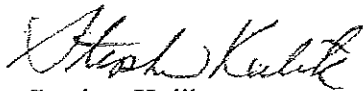
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Mary S. Keefe
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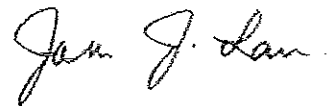
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1st Essex

Peter V. Kocot
1st Hampshire

Robert M. Koczera
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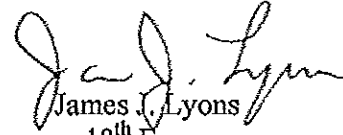
Stephen Kulik
1st Franklin



John J. Lawn
10th Middlesex



Jay D. Livingstone
8th Suffolk



James J. Lyons
18th Essex



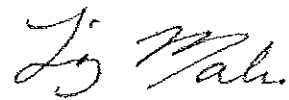
Adrian Madaro
1st Suffolk



Timothy R. Madden
Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket




John J. Mahoney
13th Worcester



Elizabeth A. Malia
11th Suffolk



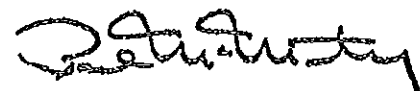
Brian R. Mannel
2nd Barnstable



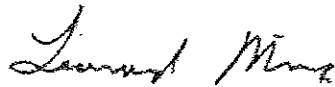
Paul W. Mark
2nd Berkshire



Christopher M. Markey
9th Bristol



Paul McMurtry
11th Norfolk



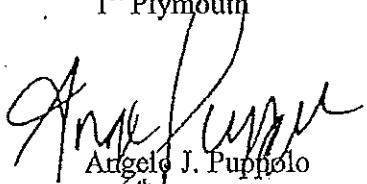
Leonard Mirra
2nd Essex



David K. Muradian
9th Worcester



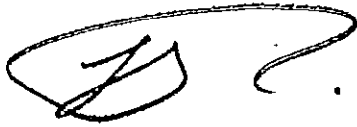
Mathew Muratore
1st Plymouth



Angele J. Puppiolo
12th Hampden




Jeffrey N. Roy
10th Norfolk



Jeffrey Sánchez
15th Suffolk



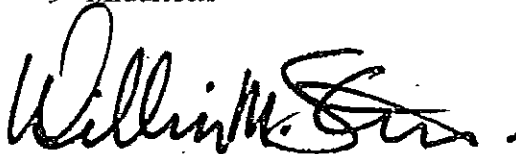
Paul A. Schmid
8th Bristol



Alan Silvia
7th Bristol



Thomas M. Stanley
9th Middlesex



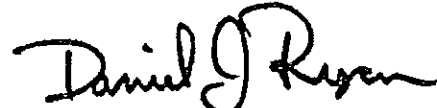
William M. Straus
10th Bristol



Denise Provost
27th Middlesex



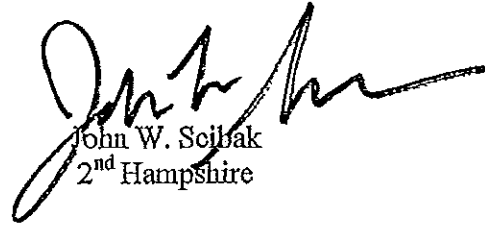
David M. Rogers
24th Middlesex




Daniel J. Ryan
2nd Suffolk



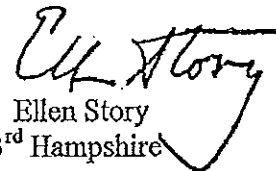
Tom Sannicandro
7th Middlesex



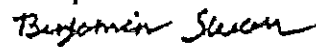
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2nd Hampshire



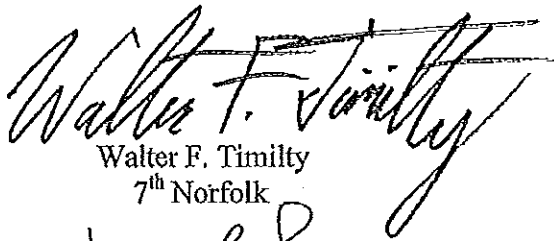
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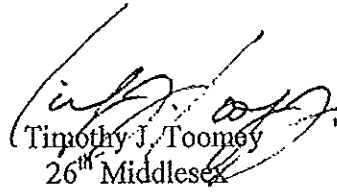


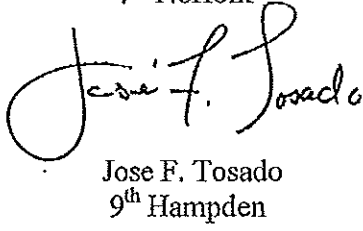
Ellen Story
3rd Hampshire

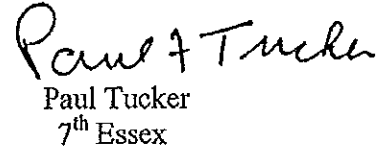


Benjamin Swan
11th Hampden

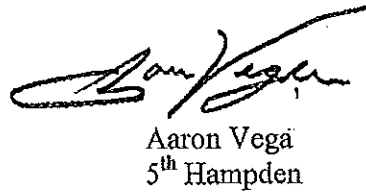

Walter F. Timilty
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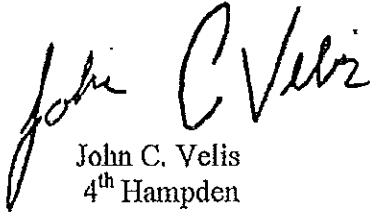

Timothy J. Toomey
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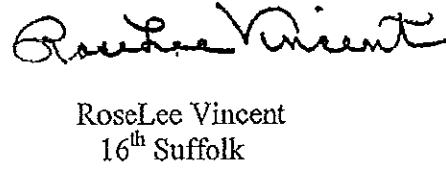

Jose F. Tosado
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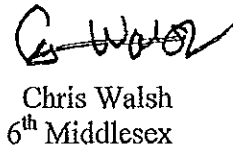

Paul Tucker
7th Essex

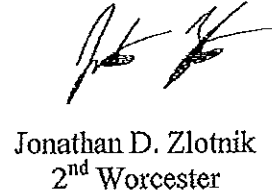

Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex



Aaron Vega
5th Hampden



John C. Velis
4th Hampden


RoseLee Vincent
16th Suffolk


Chris Walsh
6th Middlesex


Jonathan D. Zlotnik
2nd Worcester


Danielle W. Gregoire
4th Middlesex


Aaron Michlewitz
3rd Suffolk