



Senator Michael Barrett
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy
State House
Boston, MA 02133
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Representative Thomas Golden
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy
State House
Boston, MA 02133
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Testimony in Support of H.2836, S.1958, The 100 percent renewable energy act.

Dear Chairperson Barrett, Chairperson Golden and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Amherst MA Town Council, I urge you to give a favorable report to S.1849/H.3395, the 100 percent renewable energy act.

In November of 2017, Amherst Town Meeting unanimously passed a Resolution for 100% Renewable Energy, in which the Town resolved to “commit to a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy and to move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal”, and to urge leaders in the legislature and statewide elected and appointed officials to support “legislation that would bring Massachusetts to 100% renewable energy, and ensure that the benefits of renewable energy are realized by Massachusetts residents from all walks of life”. Article 16, Fall 2017 Amherst Town Meeting. <https://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/42138/Fall-Special-Town-Meeting-Final-Signed?bidId=>.

The movement to transition to 100% renewable energy has taken off in Massachusetts. Within the last years, not only is there widespread support for this bill, but many cities and towns have created 100% renewable energy campaigns. The passage of this bill would greatly boost Amherst and other municipalities’ ability to plan for and fund local projects to help fulfill our renewable energy goals.

The 100% Renewable Energy Act would make Massachusetts the first state in the nation to establish an economy-wide commitment to 100 percent renewable energy.

It would:

- Set a goal of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035, and 100 percent renewable energy economy-wide (including heating and transportation) by 2045.
- Accelerate the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to reach 100 percent renewable electricity by 2035.
- Require the Department of Energy Resources to set interim renewable energy targets for 2030 and 2040, and issue regulations to meet those targets.

- Establish an interagency working group to evaluate all state laws and regulations that affect energy consumption and propose changes to accelerate the transition to renewable energy.
- Establish a Clean Energy Workforce Development Fund to support training, education, and job placement assistance for Massachusetts residents to work in the clean energy industry, funded by energy savings from clean energy projects installed on state properties.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Lynn Greisemer, President
Amherst Town Council
Amherst, MA