Dear Chairmen Michael Barrett and Thomas Golden:

As businesses and employers in Massachusetts, we support efforts to ensure that the Commonwealth continues to lead on clean energy. Specifically, we support legislative proposals to achieve **50% renewable energy supply by 2030**, by increasing the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) at least 2 percent per year.

Increasing the RPS would help Massachusetts businesses. A growing number of companies, both large and small, have set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in renewable energy not only because it is the right thing to do to address the urgent imperative of advancing the clean energy transition, but because it makes good business sense. Clean energy helps businesses cut energy costs, reduce exposure to the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and stay competitive. Strengthening the state’s renewable energy standards will provide us with the certainty and predictability we need for our businesses.

The Commonwealth’s current policies have catalyzed the development of a robust clean energy sector, new high-paying jobs, and increased capital investments. Massachusetts’ existing clean energy policies have resulted in over **100,000 clean energy jobs and contributed more than $11.8 billion** to the Gross State Product. Increasing the RPS will help to accelerate this vital economic engine and help the state meet its greenhouse gas reduction requirements. We urge you to continue to foster the national leadership role that Massachusetts currently enjoys by supporting this policy.

Currently, the RPS increases by 1 percent per year indefinitely, however a new report finds that increasing the Massachusetts RPS by at least 2 percent per year will allow the state to fully realize the benefits of new clean energy demand and lower wholesale electricity prices. This policy would enhance the economic vitality, competitiveness, and growth of our state.

Finally, an increase in the RPS of at least 2 percent per year, aimed at achieving 50% renewable energy by 2030, would help the Commonwealth meet its ambitious emission reduction targets outlined in the 2008 **Global Warming Solutions Act**—a decrease of emissions 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. By further driving demand for new clean energy investments, Massachusetts will continue to be a national leader in innovative, impactful, and profitable clean energy investment.

Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can provide additional information and share our experience as this important discussion progresses.

Sincerely,

Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce    Saunders Hotel Group
Autodesk                              The Sustainability Group, Loring Wolcott & Coolidge Trust LLC.
Grossman Marketing Group             Sustainability Roundtable
IKEA                                  Trillium Asset Management
JLL                                   Walden Asset Management
Legal Sea Foods                       WasteZero
New Balance                           Worthen Industries
CC: Governor Charles Baker  
Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew Beaton  
Members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy  
Members of the General Court of the Commonwealth Massachusetts

For more information, please contact: Alli Gold Roberts, goldroberts@ceres.org or Eric Wilkinson, ewilkinson@environmentalleague.org