

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,



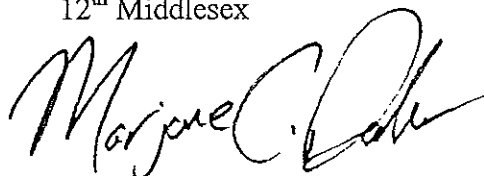
Cory Atkins
14th Middlesex



Ruth B. Balser
12th Middlesex



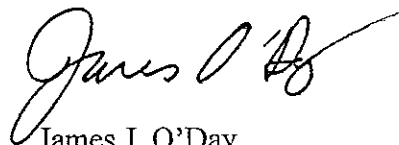
Jennifer E. Benson
37th Middlesex



Marjorie C. Decker
25th Middlesex



Kay Khan
11th Middlesex



James J. O'Day
14th Worcester



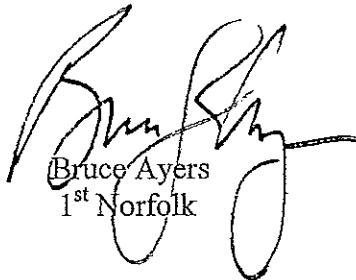
Smitty Pignatelli
4th Berkshire



James Arciero
2nd Middlesex



Brian Ashe
2nd Hampden



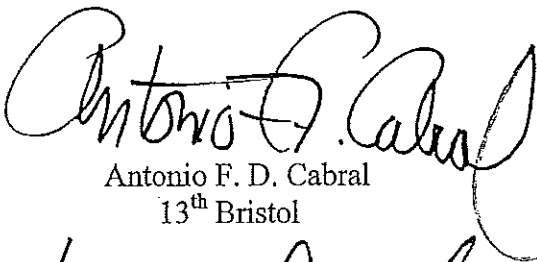
Bruce Ayers
1st Norfolk

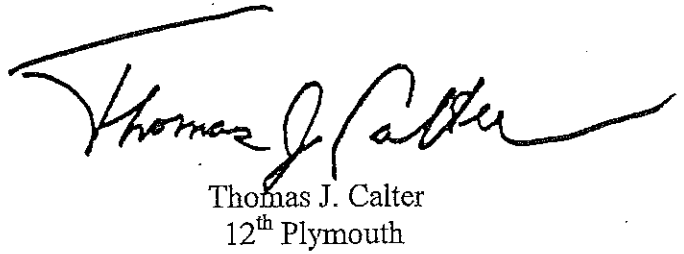


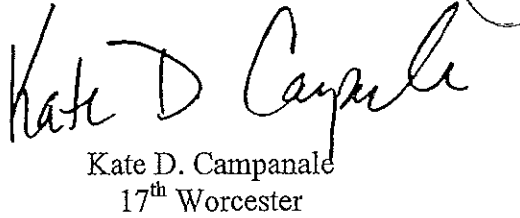
Christine P. Barber
34th Middlesex

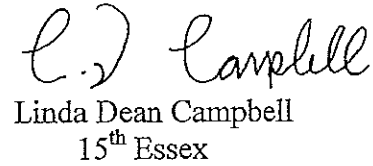


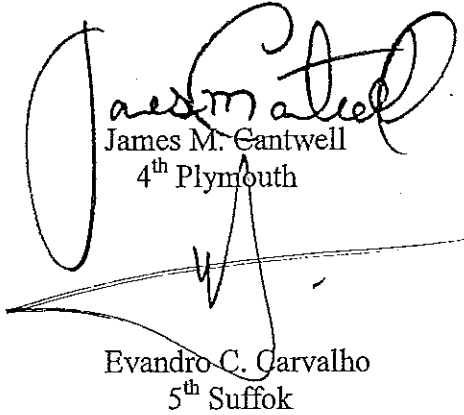
Paul Brodeur
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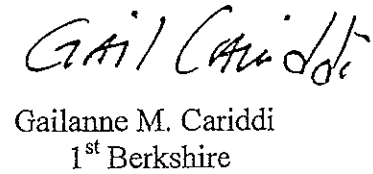

Antonio F. D. Cabral
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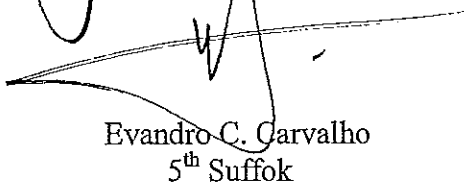

Thomas J. Calter
12th Plymouth

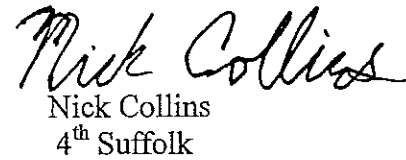

Kate D. Campanale
17th Worcester

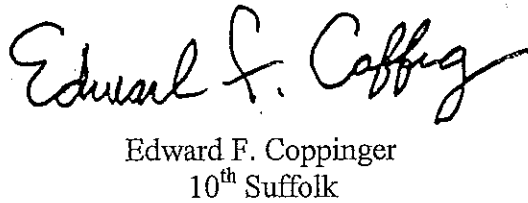

Linda Dean Campbell
15th Essex

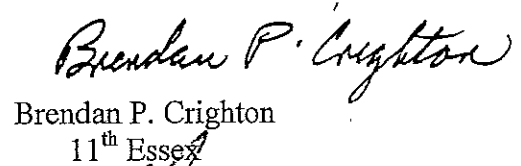

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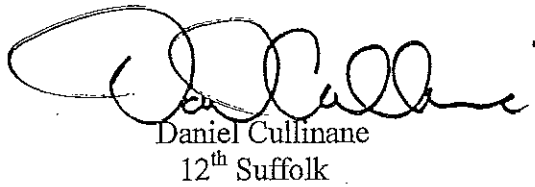

Gailanne M. Cariddi
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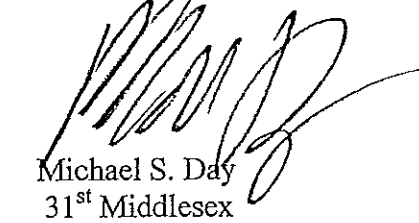

Evandro C. Carvalho
5th Suffolk

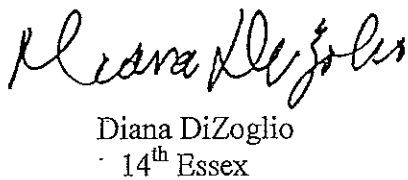

Nick Collins
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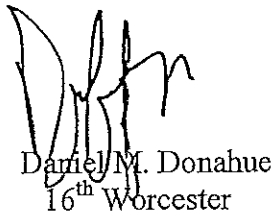

Edward F. Coppinger
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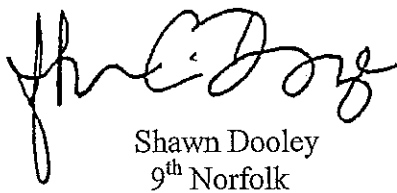

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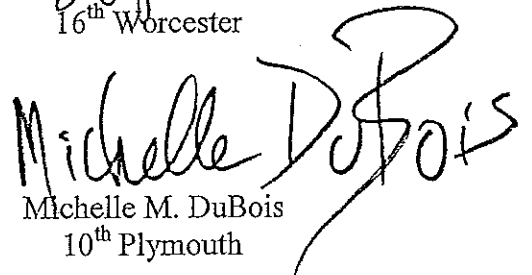

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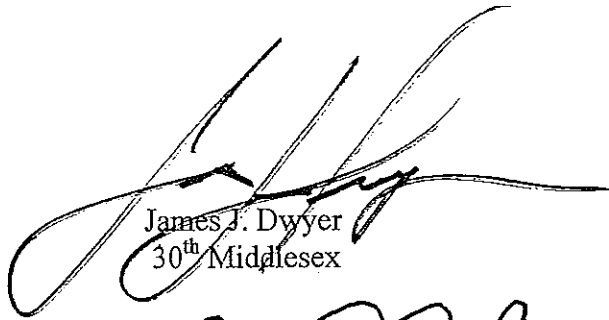

Michael S. Day
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Diana DiZoglio
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Daniel M. Donahue
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Shawn Dooley
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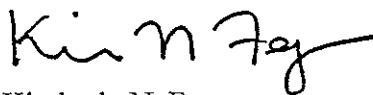

Michelle M. DuBois
10th Plymouth



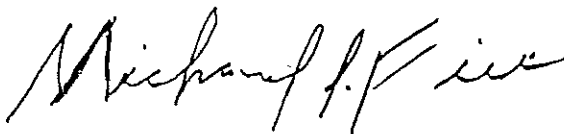
James J. Dwyer
30th Middlesex



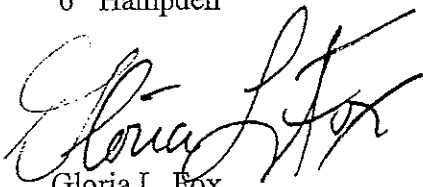
Lori A. Ehrlich
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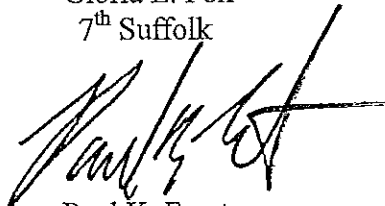
Kimberly N. Ferguson
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Michael J. Finn
6th Hampden



Gloria L. Fox
7th Suffolk



Paul K. Frost
7th Worcester



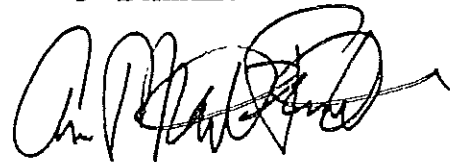
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Carolyn C. Dykema
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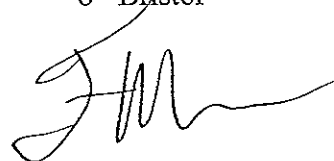
Tricia Farley-Bouvier
3rd Berkshire



Ann-Margaret Ferrante
5th Essex



Carole A. Fiola
6th Bristol



Frank A. Moran
17th Essex



Sean Garballey
23rd Middlesex



Colleen M. Garry
36th Middlesex

Carmine L. Gentile
13th Middlesex

Kenneth I. Gordon
21st Middlesex

Sheila C. Harrington
1st Middlesex

Jonathian 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
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Hannah Kane
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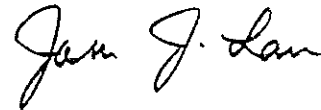
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Robert M. Koczera
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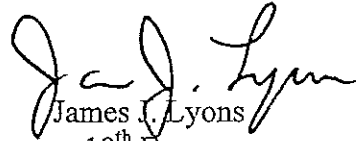
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John J. Lawn
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Jay D. Livingstone
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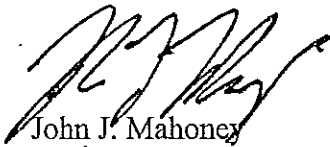
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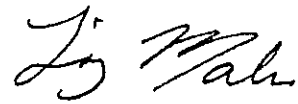
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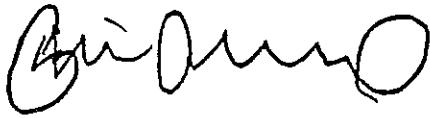
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John J. Mahoney
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Elizabeth A. Malia
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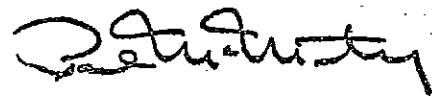
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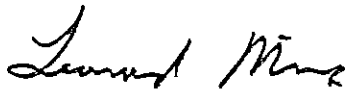
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Christopher M. Markey
9th Bristol



Paul McMurtry
11th Norfolk



Leonard Mirra
2nd Essex



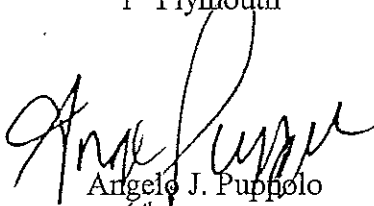
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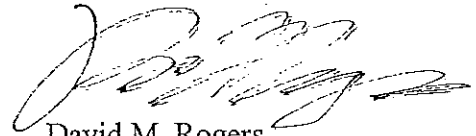
Matthew Muratore
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Denise Provost
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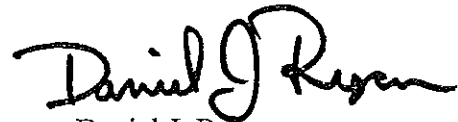
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David M. Rogers
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Jeffrey N. Roy
10th Norfolk



Daniel J. Ryan
2nd Suffolk



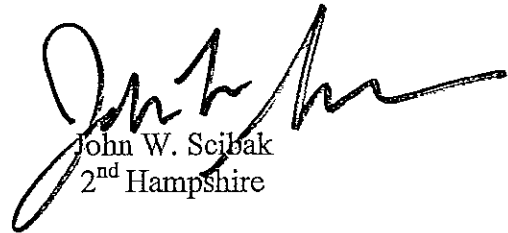
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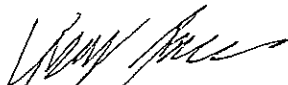
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Paul A. Schmid
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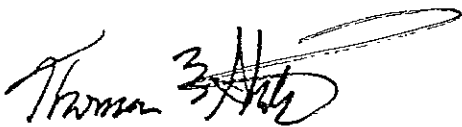
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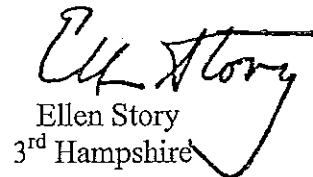
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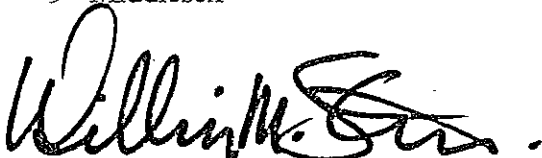
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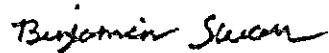
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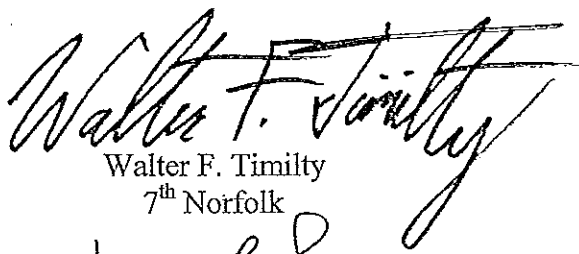
Ellen Story
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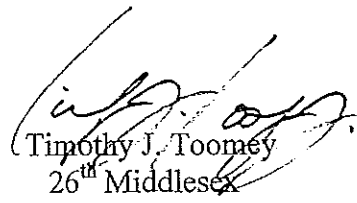
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10th Bristol



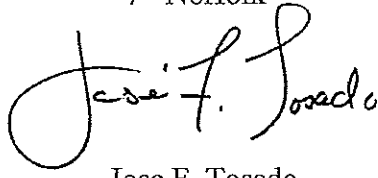
Benjamin Swan
11th Hampden



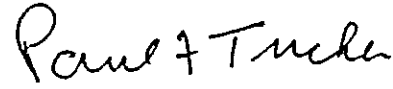
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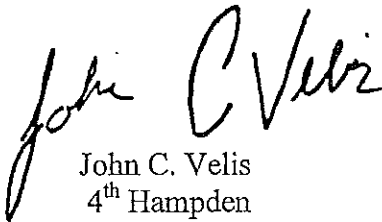
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Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex



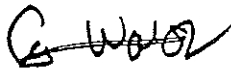
Aaron Vega
5th Hampden



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