



The Massachusetts House of Representatives

Representative Smitty Pignatelli

Fourth Berkshire District

State House, Room 473F, Boston, Massachusetts 02133-1053

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 280
Boston, Ma 02133

Re: The Roadmap to Make Massachusetts Carbon-Neutral by 2050

Dear Governor Baker:

We in the Commonwealth owe you a debt of gratitude for your service and leadership during this public health and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic over this past year, and I would like to thank you for your service to our citizens.

I write to you today regarding the conference report that is designed to put Massachusetts on a course towards carbon-neutrality by the year 2050, enacted by both the House and Senate and laid before you last week. As chair of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture during this past session; I had the distinguished honor of reviewing and approving the original piece of legislation that the conference report is based on. Climate change poses an existential threat to our planet and future generations that will bear the consequences of the actions taken over the past few centuries. The onus is on all of us to mitigate those harmful impacts as much as we can, while we still have time. The piece of legislation, before you, lays out a plan for the Commonwealth to do its part in fighting this existential threat, setting interim benchmarks and giving your administration great influence throughout the process. This roadmap that the legislature passed would be a bold step in the right direction and the strongest of its kind in the nation, serving as a shining example for other states to follow in our footsteps.

As I understand it, part of your reservation with this bill is in regards to the interim carbon emissions goals and whether they will be achievable. A desire to have a feasible plan is admirable, and I can assure you that this legislation provides for one. In this regard, I cannot help but think back to history on another great Massachusetts politician: President John F. Kennedy. In May of 1961, President Kennedy stood before Congress and stated the goal of having the United States land a man on the moon before the end of the decade. At that time, there was no understanding of how that goal and timeline could possibly be accomplished. President Kennedy believed in the spirit and ingenuity of the American people to accomplish this goal, and in July of 1969 his faith was rewarded. This 2050 roadmap puts forward an unprecedented task that will require a long journey. Not every step on that journey can possibly be known to us at this particular moment, but we know that we must embark because it is necessary. As President Kennedy said about landing a man on the moon, we do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard; because it is a challenge that we are willing to accept and unwilling to postpone. Like President Kennedy before you, I ask you to believe in the spirit and ingenuity of the people of the Massachusetts as we embark on this journey to do great, hard, and necessary things for the future of our Commonwealth and our planet.

I respectfully implore you to sign this piece of legislation and begin the process for getting this roadmap underway. Failing to sign this into law would only further delay the implementation of these necessary steps to combat climate change, and we all know that we are running out of precious time. Please be with us in this moment in standing on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Smitty".

Smitty Pignatelli, **State Representative** from the 4th Berkshire District