



October 2, 2015

We, the undersigned, representing experts in health, energy, and environment, have signed on to this letter because we recognize that the voluntary market for renewable energy has the power to guarantee an increase in renewable energy and a decrease in fossil fuel generation (with commensurate reductions in carbon dioxide emissions) on the NEPOOL electricity grid, provided that the voluntary market creates additional demand for Class I Renewable Energy Certificates as defined by the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). We define this power shift as the desired outcome of the voluntary market for renewable energy.

By requiring suppliers to obtain a certain percentage of electricity from qualified renewable resources, the Massachusetts RPS creates a market for renewable energy generation from facilities built after 1997. **These projects, which rely on the revenue from renewable energy certificates (RECs) to be financially feasible, would not be built without demand for their RECs.**¹

Every Class I REC that is retired to meet voluntary demand has been kept away from the compliance market, which allows the voluntary market to accelerate our shift away from fossil fuels.

At the same time, we recognize that sales of non-New England, non-Class I RECS, in place of sales of Class I RECs, greatly undermine our efforts to truly shift our power grid away from fossil fuels.

We hereby recommend that voluntary renewable energy purchases result in the retirement of Massachusetts RPS qualified Class I RECs.

Sincerely,

Larry Chretien, Executive Director – Mass Energy Consumers Alliance
 Peter Shattuck, Director, Clean Energy Initiative & Director, Massachusetts Office – Acadia Center
 Casey Harvell, Massachusetts Director of Public Policy – American Lung Association of the Northeast
 Nathan Phillips, Professor of Earth & Environment – Boston University
 Cindy Luppi, New England Director – Clean Water Action
 Michael Green, Executive Director – Climate Action Business Association
 Veronica Eady, VP & Massachusetts Director – Conservation Law Foundation
 George Bachrach, President – Environmental League of Massachusetts
 Quinton Zondervan, President – Green Cambridge
 Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy & Government Relations – Mass Audubon
 Emily Norton, Chapter Director – Massachusetts Sierra Club
 Kelsey Wirth, Founder & Chair – Mothers Out Front
 Richard Andre, President – Vineyard Power

¹ We also support increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard from 1% to 2% per year. An increase in the RPS will bring more qualifying Class I resources online.