

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 02024**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Tom Sannicandro***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to repower Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan C. Fargo</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balse</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 02024

By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2024) of Walsh and others for legislation to create a special task force to study interim and longer-term actions necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to repower Massachusetts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Whereas, Global climatic disruption will severely undermine and imperil the economic, political,  
2 and social stability of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States of America, and  
3 the nations of the world by decreasing the availability of food and water to people across the  
4 world; and

5 Whereas, Decreased availability of food and water will lead to increased conflict around the  
6 world;

7 Whereas, Massachusetts has a strong history of leadership on global climatic disruption,  
8 including its participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and its passage of the Green  
9 Communities Act;

10 Whereas, When the scientific consensus indicated that a stabilization of atmospheric levels of  
11 carbon dioxide at or below 450 parts per million (PPM) was sufficient to hold the risk of ruinous  
12 climate change at an acceptably low level, Massachusetts responded with the passage of the  
13 Global Warming Solutions Act to aim us towards this goal;

14 Whereas, Leading scientists now state that 350 parts per million (PPM) is the highest safe level  
15 of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;

16 Whereas, Current global levels of carbon dioxide are approximately 390 parts per million;

17 Whereas, The fact that we have exceeded the safe threshold is evident through the major losses  
18 of ice around the world, including in the Arctic, as well as the World Health Organization's  
19 estimations that hundreds of thousands of people already die every year from the direct and  
20 indirect effects of climate change;

21 Whereas, Massachusetts has a moral obligation to as soon as possible eliminate its contribution  
22 to global destabilization as a result of rapid climatic disruption;

23 Whereas, This body has previously endorsed the goal of 100% clean electricity in the next 10  
24 years by calling on Congress to Repower America through a joint resolution passed by both  
25 houses in the spring of 2009;

26 Whereas By beginning this rapid transition earlier than most, the Commonwealth will attract  
27 industrial investment in renewable energy and sustainable technology and green jobs that will  
28 facilitate the transition of the rest of the nation and world to a sustainable economy; and

29 Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide  
30 forthwith for the utilization of 100% renewable, alternative and nuclear energy in the

31 commonwealth in order to demonstrate global leadership and to avoid global climatic disruption,  
32 therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation  
33 of the public convenience.

34 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by  
35 the authority of the same, as follows:

36 SECTION 1. Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 9  
37 the following section 10:

38 Section 10. Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force

39 (a) Within two weeks of the bill's passage, the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary, shall  
40 appoint and immediately assemble a RePower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force "Task  
41 Force" comprised of 14 members to assist in implementing this chapter. The Task Force shall  
42 consist of the Secretary or a designee, who shall be the chair of the Task Force; Chairman of  
43 Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change or a designee; Chairman of the  
44 House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change or a designee, the commissioner of  
45 energy resources or a designee, the commissioner of environmental protection or a designee, the  
46 commissioner of the department of public utilities or a designee, and 1 representative from each  
47 of following communities: the religious community, the student climate advocacy community,  
48 the environmental justice community, renewable energy and energy efficiency businesses,  
49 electric utilities, academic institutions, climate advocacy organizations, and the businesses  
50 community.

51 (b) Within six months of its convening, the Task Force shall develop a plan and make  
52 recommendations to the Secretary and the legislature for meeting the target of 100% emission

53 reductions by January 1, 2020, which shall include interim and longer-term actions necessary for  
54 implementation.

55 (c) The Task Force shall file a report with its finding, including any legislative and regulatory  
56 recommendations, with the Governor, the Secretary, clerks of the senate and house of  
57 representatives, the joint committee on telecommunications, utility, and energy, and the senate  
58 and house committees on ways and means not later than six months and two weeks after the  
59 effective date of this act.

60 (d) The Task Force shall specifically consider, but not be limited to, evaluating the following  
61 actions:

62 (1) amendments to the commonwealth's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

63 (2) amendments to the commonwealth's renewable energy portfolio standard to conform to the  
64 goals of this Act,

65 (3) options for phasing out by January 1, 2020, the use of alternative renewable energy sources  
66 that have positive net greenhouse gas emissions during their operating cycles.

67 (4) amendments to reinstate authority to the executive that was removed during utility  
68 deregulation.

69 (5) wind-siting reform

70 (6) creating a state or regional mechanism to price carbon

71 (7) smart grid implementation

72 (8) deep energy efficiency investments

73 (e) When respectively making recommendations, the Task Force shall consider, but not be  
74 limited to, the following:

75 (1) That the goal of 100% emissions reductions in the electricity sector should be primarily  
76 achieved by (a) reducing electricity demand through efficiency and appropriate economic  
77 incentives, and (b) by building new renewable energy generation.

78 (2) That coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, and interim recommendations towards zero  
79 emissions in the electricity sector should prioritize reducing electricity consumption from coal  
80 before other fossil fuels, with a goal of a complete phase-out of coal-powered electricity by  
81 January 1st, 2015.

82 (3) That due consideration should be given to low-income communities and individuals to make  
83 sure that they are not forced to endure disproportionate hardship during the transition to a clean  
84 energy economy.

85 (4) That due consideration should be given to the needs of the industrial sector to make sure that  
86 they are not encouraged to move their industrial processes out of state without resulting in actual  
87 emissions reductions.

88 (5) That carbon emissions reductions are most valuable in the short-term, and that any energy  
89 source using fuel that claims to be carbon-neutral over a span of years or decades should be not  
90 be considered a net zero carbon emissions source of electricity, unless it is deemed to be  
91 sustainable and carbon neutral by an independent panel of scientists.

92 (f) The Secretary shall appoint and assemble subcommittees as needed to achieve the goals. The  
93 subcommittees shall be composed of agency staff and representatives the same communities

94 represented on the Task Force, as well as other relevant communities the Task Force votes to  
95 include at its first or later meetings.

96 (g) The Task Force shall not meet any less than once every two weeks, and staff from the  
97 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental  
98 Protection, the Department of Public Utilities, and the Department of Energy Resources shall  
99 assist the Task Force in their studies as required for their successful completion.

100 (h) Upon the completion of the Task Force's recommendations, the Secretary shall appoint a  
101 Repower Massachusetts Advisory Council "Advisory Council" that shall consist of 14  
102 representatives of the same agencies and communities as the Task Force to periodically review  
103 implementation of recommendations and advise the Governor, the Secretary, clerks of the senate  
104 and house of representatives, the joint committee on telecommunications, utility, and energy, and  
105 the senate and house committees on ways and means with annual reports on adjustments  
106 necessary for meeting the target of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with  
107 the electric sector by January 1, 2020.

108 (i) If the goal of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the electric sector  
109 is not achieved by January 1st, 2020, the Advisory Council will continue its work, including but  
110 not limited to its annual reports, until such date that the goal is achieved.