

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 980**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sarah K. Peake***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act promoting sustainable development and infrastructure, economic security, and fiscal responsibility with respect to climate risks.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/8/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>3/5/2021</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>

<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Steven C. Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>3/30/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/12/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 980**

By Ms. Peake of Provincetown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 980) of Sarah K. Peake and others relative to the consideration and disclosure of climate change risks in applications for a state permits. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act promoting sustainable development and infrastructure, economic security, and fiscal responsibility with respect to climate risks.

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

1 SECTION 1. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21O the  
2 following chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 21P.

4 CLIMATE RISK AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

5 Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings  
6 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

7 “Adaptation”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 21N of the General Laws.

8 “Adaptation measures,” location, design, engineering, construction, landscaping or other  
9 creation or modification of natural or non-structural features, ecological design, and other  
10 elements of a structure, operation, system, activity, or process that (a) eliminate or reduce loss,

11 damage, or interruption of function due to climate risk, or (b) facilitate rapid restoration or  
12 recovery following loss, damage, or interruption of function due to climate risk.

13 “Alternative floodplain map”, any map adopted by a city or town by ordinance or bylaw  
14 that establishes, using the best available science and data, the area at flood risk based on forward-  
15 looking climate projections or on past, documented flood history, to be used in place of the  
16 federal emergency management agency’s flood insurance rate maps only if the map is more  
17 expansive in area and more restrictive in base flood elevation than the federal flood insurance  
18 rate maps.

19 “Climate resilience”, the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, and recover from, and  
20 more successfully adapt to adverse events resulting from increase climate risks.

21 “Climate risks”, the reasonably foreseeable risks to the economy, public services and  
22 infrastructure, and public health and safety based on best available data and current science, that  
23 are attributable to current and reasonably foreseeable climate conditions, including but not  
24 limited to changes in sea level, storm frequency or intensity, drought, wind, extreme  
25 precipitation, and extreme temperature changes projected to occur as a result of climate change.

26 "Electric power company", as defined in section 1 of chapter 164 of the General Laws.

27 “Environmental justice population”, a neighborhood that meets 1 or more of the  
28 following criteria: (i) the annual median household income is not more than 65 percent of the  
29 statewide annual median household income; (ii) minorities comprise 40 percent or more of the  
30 population, (iii) 25 percent or more of households lack English language proficiency; or (iv)  
31 minorities comprise 25 percent or more of the population and the annual median household  
32 income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of

33 the statewide annual median household income; provided, however, that for a neighborhood that  
34 does not meet said criteria, but a geographic portion of that neighborhood that meets at least 1  
35 criterion, the secretary may designate that geographic portion as an environmental justice  
36 population upon the petition of at least 10 residents of the geographic portion of that  
37 neighborhoods meeting any such criteria; provided further, that the secretary may determine that  
38 a neighborhood, including any geographic portion thereof, shall not be designated an  
39 environmental justice population upon finding that: (A) the annual median household income of  
40 that neighborhood is greater than 125 percent of the statewide median household income; (B) a  
41 majority of persons age 25 and older in that neighborhood have a college education; (C) the  
42 neighborhood does not bear an unfair burden of environmental pollution; and (D) the  
43 neighborhood has more than limited access to natural resources, including open spaces and water  
44 resources, playgrounds, and other constructed outdoor recreational facilities and venues.

45 “Maintenance”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 7C of the General Laws.

46 "Natural gas company", as defined in section 1 of chapter 164 of the General Laws.

47 “Nature-based solutions”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 21N of the General Laws.

48 "Regulation" includes the whole or any part of every rule, regulation, standard or other  
49 requirement of general application and future effect, including the amendment or repeal thereof,  
50 adopted by an agency to implement or interpret the law enforced or administered by it, but does  
51 not include (a) regulations concerning only the internal management or discipline of the adopting  
52 agency or any other agency, and not substantially affecting the rights of or the procedures  
53 available to the public or that portion of the public affected by the agency's activities; or (b)  
54 decisions issued in adjudicatory proceedings.

55 "Secretary", the officer in charge of each executive office established by chapter 6A or  
56 chapter 7 and the supreme judicial court.

57 "State agency", a legal entity of state government established by the legislature as an  
58 agency, board, bureau, department, office or division of the commonwealth with a specific  
59 mission that may either report to an executive office or secretariat or be independent division or  
60 department.

61 "State authority", a body politic and corporate constituted as a public instrumentality of  
62 the commonwealth and established by an act of the legislature to serve an essential governmental  
63 function; provided, however, that "state authority" shall include energy generation and  
64 transmission, solid waste, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and telecommunication  
65 utilities serving areas identified by the executive office as subject to material risk of flooding;  
66 provided further, that unless designated as such by the secretary of energy and environmental  
67 affairs, "state authority" shall not include: (i) a state agency; (ii) a city or town; (iii) a body  
68 controlled by a city or town; or (iv) a separate body politic for which the governing body is  
69 elected, in whole or in part, by the general public or by representatives of member cities or towns

70 "Steam distribution company", as defined in Section 1 of chapter 164 of the General  
71 Laws.

72 "Water Companies", every person, partnership, association or corporation, other than a  
73 municipal corporation, and other than a landlord supplying his tenant, engaged in the distribution  
74 and sale of water in the commonwealth through its pipes or mains.

75 Section 2. (a) The secretary of the executive office and energy and environmental affairs  
76 shall require that every permit or project requiring review pursuant to sections sixty one through

77 sixty two i of chapter 30 of the General Laws(i) shall require disclosure of climate risk relevant  
78 to the application and require the applicant identify the assumptions, analysis, modeling or  
79 projections on which the disclosure is based; (ii) shall require, as a condition of approval, any  
80 adaptation measures that the applicant or the Secretary identifies as reasonable and appropriate  
81 for applicable climate risks; and (iii) may deny as incomplete any application, DEIR or EIR as to  
82 which the Secretary determines that either the climate risk disclosure or adaptation measures are  
83 insufficient. Every permit or project shall prioritize, to the maximum extent practicable,  
84 adaptation measures that (i) promote the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of  
85 the commonwealth's natural infrastructure through nature-based solutions, (ii) account for the  
86 existing natural, built, and economic characteristics of the commonwealth's most vulnerable  
87 areas and human populations. Adaptation measures that include the use of hard-engineered,  
88 hardscape, or gray infrastructure features shall be supported by evidence the measures will not  
89 cause of exacerbate negative environmental impacts and that alternative green or green and gray  
90 hybrid solutions are not feasible.

91 (b) The secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall adopt,  
92 in consultation and concurrence with the executive office of public safety and security and other  
93 affected state agencies and departments, a climate projections dataset based on the best available  
94 climate science using reasonably likely scenarios, to be uniformly applied when considering  
95 climate risks pursuant to section sixty-one of chapter thirty. Prior to adopting a climate  
96 projections dataset, the secretary shall provide public notice and comment in accordance with  
97 section three of chapter 30A. The secretary shall review and, as necessary, revise the adopted  
98 dataset at least every five years to ensure that it reflects the best available climate science.

99 (c) The secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall  
100 develop, in consultation and concurrence with the executive offices of public safety and security  
101 and housing and economic development, climate resilient design standards for integrating  
102 climate risks and adaptation measures into public and private construction, development,  
103 redevelopment, and new or expanded capital infrastructure projects based on the best available  
104 climate science. Prior to adopting the climate resilient design standards, the secretary shall  
105 provide public notice and comment in accordance with section three of chapter 30A.

106 Section 3. Applicants for state grants, loans, or other funding or financing including,  
107 without limitation, tax credit allocations for construction, development, redevelopment, and new  
108 or expanded capital infrastructure projects shall (a) demonstrate to the relevant agency or  
109 authority that the planning, design, engineering and specifications for the project include  
110 adaptation measures sufficient to address climate risks that will arise over the economic life of  
111 the project or the term of financing, whichever is longer, in accordance with the climate resilient  
112 design standards published by the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental  
113 affairs pursuant to section 3 of this chapter; (b) disclose in all design engineering, architectural,  
114 or other drawings and analyses the climate assumptions used in evaluating and addressing  
115 climate risks; (c) comply with and not seek variances for flood-resistant construction standards in  
116 the state building code.

117 Section . Requests for proposals for state capital projects shall require that proposals (a)  
118 demonstrate to the relevant agency or authority that the planning, design, engineering and  
119 specifications for the project include adaptation measures sufficient to address climate risks that  
120 will arise over the economic life or service life of the project, whichever is longer, in accordance  
121 with the climate resilient design standards published by the secretary of the executive office of



122 energy and environmental affairs pursuant to section 3 of this chapter; and (b) disclose in all  
123 design engineering, architectural, or other drawings and analyses the climate assumptions used in  
124 evaluating and addressing climate risks. This section shall not apply to emergency procurements  
125 as defined in section eight of chapter 30B.

126           Section 5. The requirements for risk disclosure and adoption of adaptation measures set  
127 forth in this chapter include the requirement that such disclosures and adaptation measures  
128 identify and alleviate any climate risks that disproportionately burden low and moderate income  
129 and minority populations, populations with limited English proficiency or foreign origin, or  
130 populations historically subject to higher rates of exposure to environmental risks than the  
131 general population. Adaptation measures shall further be designed to avoid disparate impacts on  
132 the basis of race, color, national origin, or income. Every permit or project requiring review  
133 pursuant to sections sixty one through sixty two i of chapter 30 of the General Laws shall submit  
134 a statement describing measures to eliminate disproportionate impacts on these populations.

135           Section 6. The secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs may  
136 promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to promptly and effectively enforce the  
137 provisions of sections one through five, inclusive.

138           Section 7.

139           (a) The following shall be exempt from the requirements of this Chapter:

140           (i) Any project for which the secretary of the executive office of energy and  
141 environmental affairs certifies in writing in consultation with the director of the Massachusetts  
142 emergency management agency, after a 15 day review period, that the project poses no climate  
143 risks and has no potential to result in an increase in emergency response costs;

144 (ii) Any action or project for the operation, or maintenance of existing public  
145 infrastructure except actions or projects intended to address the vulnerability of existing  
146 infrastructure to extreme weather and climate change impacts including but not limited to  
147 flooding.

148 (iii) Any grant or financing by the commonwealth in a cumulative amount less than  
149 \$250,000, inclusive of all state funding sources, which threshold is subject to revision by  
150 regulation promulgated by the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental  
151 affairs;

152 (iv) Any category of actions or activities for which a state agency or state authority  
153 establishes by regulation, with the concurrence of the secretary of the executive office of energy  
154 and environmental affairs and the director of the Massachusetts emergency management agency,  
155 pose no climate risks and have no potential to result in an increase in emergency response costs.

156 (v) Any adaptation measure which is designed solely to mitigate climate impacts and  
157 enhance climate resilience that relies solely on nature-based solutions.

158 Section 8.

159 The secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall  
160 develop, in consultation with the division of professional licensure, recommendations for  
161 integrating best available climate science into the state code including but not limited to  
162 commercial and residential base building codes, mechanical codes, electrical codes, and  
163 plumbing codes. The recommendations shall include, at a minimum, consideration of the impact  
164 of climate change on structural strength and integrity, means of egress facilities, stability, light  
165 and ventilation, potable water, waste, drainage, electrical wiring and electrical fixtures used for

166 light, heat, power, signaling and communications purposes in buildings and structures, and safety  
167 to life and property, including but not limited to impacts from coastal and inland flooding and  
168 extreme temperature changes. It shall also consider public health implications including human  
169 stress thresholds associated with heat and cold. The recommendations shall also include specific  
170 standards for adoption as an appendix to the state building code a municipal opt-in climate  
171 resilience stretch code that incorporates forward-looking climate risks, including but not limited  
172 to the impacts of extreme heat and cold, flooding, and wind, and standards for addressing these  
173 impacts in residential and commercial construction. The recommendations shall be published for  
174 public comment no later than 250 days of enactment. The executive office of energy and  
175 environmental affairs, in consultation with the division of professional licensure, shall  
176 periodically update these recommendations based on the best available climate science at least  
177 once every five years.

178 SECTION 2. The Section 95 of chapter 143 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
179 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking all text and inserting in place the following:

180 Section 95. The powers and duties of the board set forth in section ninety-four shall be  
181 exercised to effect the following objectives:

182 (a) Uniform standards and requirements for construction and construction materials,  
183 compatible with accepted standards of engineering and fire prevention practices, energy  
184 conservation, climate resilience, and public health and safety. In the formulation of such  
185 standards and requirements, performance for the use intended shall be the test of acceptability, in  
186 accordance with accredited testing standards.

187 (b) Adoption of modern technical methods, devices and improvements which may,  
188 over the long term, reduce the cost of construction, and maintenance over the life of the building,  
189 and mitigate the impacts of and damage from climate change without affecting the health, safety,  
190 and security of the occupants or users of buildings.

191 (c) Elimination of restrictive, obsolete, conflicting and unnecessary building  
192 regulations and  
193 requirements which may increase the cost of construction and maintenance over the life  
194 of the building or retard unnecessarily the use of new materials, or which may provide  
195 unwarranted preferential treatment of types of classes of materials, products or methods of  
196 construction without affecting the health, safety, and security of the occupants or users of  
197 buildings; provided, however, that such building regulations and requirements are not necessary  
198 to mitigate the impacts of and damage from climate change.

199 SECTION 3. The Section 94 of chapter 143 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
200 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following after subsection (r):

201 (s) In consultation with the executive office of energy and environmental affairs, the  
202 division of professional licensure, professional organizations, non-governmental organizations,  
203 and other stakeholders, develop and adopt, as an appendix to the state building code, a municipal  
204 opt-in climate resilience stretch code that incorporates forward-looking climate risks, including  
205 but not limited to the impacts of extreme heat and cold, flooding, and wind, and standards for  
206 addressing these impacts in residential and commercial construction.

207 SECTION 4. The Section 98 of chapter 143 of the General Laws, as appearing in the

208           2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following after the first  
209 paragraph:

210           The board of selectmen in a town or the city council in a city may request the use of  
211 alternative floodplain maps, based on best available climate science, including forward-looking  
212 projections, and or floodplain maps based on past, documented flood history, in lieu of federal  
213 emergency management agency flood insurance rate maps for the purposes of determining base  
214 flood elevation and mandating the applicability of flood-resistant construction standards as  
215 contained in the residential and commercial base building codes where flood hazard areas are  
216 referenced. The board of selectman in a town or the city council in a city shall certify that the  
217 city or town has formally adopted alternative floodplain maps for official use in the town by  
218 ordinance or bylaw and that the alternative floodplain maps are more expansive in area and more  
219 stringent in base flood elevation than the existing federal emergency management agency flood  
220 insurance rate maps. A city or town shall not use alternative floodplain maps that are less  
221 restrictive than existing federal flood insurance rate maps. If the board finds that the use of  
222 alternative floodplain maps are in the interest of public health and safety and with the general  
223 purposes of a statewide building code, the board shall, after notice to said board of selectmen or  
224 mayor, and after a public hearing, adopt rules and regulations, impose conditions in connection  
225 with the adoption thereof. If the board rejects the request, the board of selectmen or mayor may  
226 file an appeal within 30 days to undersecretary of the office of consumer affairs and business  
227 regulation. If the undersecretary upholds the decision of the board, the board of selectmen or  
228 mayor may file a request for reconsideration within 30 days to the secretary of the executive  
229 office of housing and economic development. The secretary of the executive office of housing

230 and economic development, in consultation with the secretary of the executive office of energy  
231 and environmental affairs, shall respond to the request for reconsideration within 15 days.

232 SECTION 5. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after section (23) of  
233 chapter 25 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, the following  
234 section:

235 Section 24

236 Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Plan

237 (a) The Department of Public Utilities shall develop, in consultation with the  
238 secretary of

239 the executive office of energy and environmental affairs, climate adaptation standards for  
240 all investor-owned electric, natural gas, steam distribution, and water companies based on best  
241 available climate science. Prior to adopting climate adaptation standards, the Department of  
242 Public Utilities shall provide public notice and comment in accordance with section three of  
243 chapter 30A. The Department shall publish final climate adaptation standards no later than 250  
244 days after enactment.

245 (b) The Department of Public Utilities shall require investor-owned electric, natural  
246 gas,

247 steam distribution, and water companies to prepare and file a climate vulnerability and  
248 adaptation plan at least once every five years based on best available climate science and in  
249 accordance with the Department's climate adaptation standards. Climate vulnerability and  
250 adaptation plans shall prioritize, to the maximum extent practicable, adaptation measures that (i)

251 promote the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the commonwealth's  
252 natural infrastructure through nature-based solutions, (ii) account for the existing natural, built,  
253 and economic characteristics of the commonwealth's most vulnerable areas and human  
254 populations. Adaptation measures that include the use of hard-engineered, hardscape, or gray  
255 infrastructure features shall be supported by evidence the measures will not cause or exacerbate  
256 negative environmental impacts and that alternative green or green and gray hybrid solutions are  
257 not feasible. Climate vulnerability and adaptation plans shall be prepared in collaboration with  
258 communities most impacted by the effects of climate change, including environmental justice  
259 communities, and shall include a community engagement plan that describes outreach efforts  
260 that will be undertaken including but not limited to public meetings, notices thereof, language  
261 access accommodations for low-English proficiency populations, narrative and numerical  
262 outreach goals and targets, past engagement goal shortfalls or deficiencies.

263 (c) The Department of Public Utilities shall require, in any ratemaking proceeding  
264 pursuant to sections seventy-six, ninety-three, and ninety-four of chapter one hundred and sixty-  
265 four and sections two and four of chapter one hundred and sixty-five, that investor-owned  
266 electric power, natural gas, steam distribution, and water companies identify in priority order the  
267 climate risks to its facilities, that will arise over the projected economic life of such facilities or  
268 fifty years, whichever is greater, in accordance with climate adaptation plans as required by  
269 subsection (b). The companies shall present evidence documenting their evaluation of climate  
270 risks and measures addressing such climate risks based on the best available data and other  
271 evidence in the record before the agency and shall identify how their operating and capital  
272 budgets address such climate risks. The companies shall also (a) consider and present evidence  
273 addressing likely climate change risk scenarios in relation to the risk tolerance of the

274 infrastructure and (b) disclose in all design engineering, architectural, or other drawings and  
275 analyses the climate assumptions used in evaluating and addressing climate risks

276 (d) In adjudicating ratemaking proceedings pursuant to sections seventy-six, ninety-three,  
277 and ninety-four of chapter one hundred and sixty-four and sections two and four of chapter one  
278 hundred and sixty-five, the Department of Public Utilities shall determine whether the  
279 applicant's costs proposed or incurred for capital investment projects included consideration and  
280 minimization of climate risks for the economic life of the proposed investment or fifty years,  
281 whichever is greater. In considering climate risks, the Department of Public Utilities shall  
282 consult the most recent climate vulnerability and adaptation plan on file for the applicant and  
283 analyze likely climate change risk scenarios and shall conclude in writing that those scenarios are  
284 appropriate based on the risk tolerance of the project or facility.

285 (d) The Department of Public Utilities shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are  
286 necessary to promptly and effectively enforce the provisions of section twenty-four.

287 SECTION 4. Section 69J1/4 of chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
288 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following:

289 All petitions shall a) demonstrate to the board that the planning, design, engineering and  
290 specifications for the project include adaptation measures sufficient to address climate risks that  
291 will arise over the economic life of the project or the term of financing, whichever is longer,  
292 based on the best available climate science; and (b) disclose in all design engineering,  
293 architectural, or other drawings and analyses the climate assumptions used in evaluating and  
294 addressing climate risks.

295 SECTION 6. Section 2 of chapter 21A of the General Laws, as appearing in the



296           2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after clause (30) the following  
297 subsections:

298           (31) Establish, conduct, and maintain an annual program of education and training for  
299 members of local planning boards, zoning boards, and commissions on climate science and the  
300 physical effects of climate change including but not limited to sea level rise, storm surge,  
301 drought, wind, extreme precipitation, and extreme high and low temperature changes including  
302 heat waves and based on the best available data. Each city or town receiving financial assistance  
303 pursuant to section 11 of chapter 21N of the General Laws shall require members of any  
304 planning board, zoning board of appeals or zoning commission, health board, conservation  
305 commission, or other local board or commission comprised of volunteer members, to participate  
306 in training and education classes on climate science and the physical effects of climate change.  
307 Each member shall complete a minimum of five (5) hours of training in order to be certified by  
308 this subsection. Upon completion of the training, the board or commission member shall file with  
309 the municipal clerk a statement asserting that the training course has been completed.

310           (32) The secretary may, in establishing, conducting and maintaining this program of  
311 education and training, confer with and, if necessary, consolidate efforts with other mandatory  
312 board training programs as appropriate. Any consolidated training program must retain the  
313 requirement that members complete a minimum of five (5) hours of training on climate science  
314 and the physical effects of climate change. Non-governmental organizations may assist with the  
315 development, maintenance, and implementation of this program of education and training with  
316 the approval of the secretary.