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July 12, 2018

Representative Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker &
Members of the House of Representatives
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Associated Industries of Massachusetts on Pending House Energy Proposals

Dear Speaker DeLeo and members of the House of Representatives:

Before you today are several energy bills which will impact energy policies in Massachusetts for decades. These bills address energy efficiency, energy storage, and increasing the requirements to purchase renewable power and establishment of a new “clean peak” standard.

AIM would like to offer our opinion on each bill.

H.4737 - An Act Relative to Expanding Resource Efficiency in the Commonwealth

H.4737 would update some energy efficiency standards for a variety of products.

AIM supports H.4737 with an amendment, as we believe it would lead to savings in energy with minimal or no cost to the consumer. However, there are sections of the bill that would harm businesses. These issues are corrected by Amendment #6 filed by Rep. Josh Cutler. We urge the House to adopt this amendment.

H.4739 - An Act to Improve Grid Resiliency through Energy Storage

AIM supports H.4739.

H.4738 - An Act to Increase Renewable Energy and Reduce High-cost Peak Hours

H.4738 would increase the requirement for suppliers to purchase increasing amounts of renewable power and develop a new “clean peak” standard.

In general, we believe that an increase in the RPS is unnecessary. Much was accomplished last session and we are proactively implementing the programs established in that law. Therefore, we believe that the legislature should be cautious when considering changes to the RPS.

However, if any RPS increase is to be adopted, the more measured increases outlined in H.4738 is the right approach. It maintains appropriate flexibility and does not commit the state to long-term programs that have unintended costs and consequences. We commend the House for their restraint.

With regards to the clean peak standard, if the legislature is adopting any clean peak standard we urge the legislature to adopt Amendments #26 and #27 which will broaden the ability of sources to be eligible for this standard. This will help keep costs of the program down and maintain important existing storage resources in the commonwealth.

Thank you for considering our comments for these important bills. We are available to discuss these legislative proposals and AIM's position regarding each should you have questions or want to discuss them further.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Rio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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