



JONATHAN HECHT
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STATE HOUSE, ROOM 22

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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November 13, 2019

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H.3983, An Act to create a 2050 roadmap to a clean and thriving commonwealth

Dear Chairman Michlewitz:

I write to you today in support of H.3983, An Act to create a 2050 roadmap to a clean and thriving commonwealth. As you know, the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture recently reported this bill out favorably to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

A year ago, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report calling for greenhouse gas emission reductions designed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° C by the year 2050. To achieve this goal, the IPCC recommended that human-caused carbon emissions must be reduced to net-zero by 2050.

Achieving net-zero carbon emissions is technically feasible and economically viable. It is also a necessity if we are to avoid irrevocable environmental and economic devastation. Our increasingly storm-battered communities have already begun to suffer the effects of sea level rise and climate change. Severe heat events are also becoming more common, and the urban heat island effect exacerbates the effects on low-income and elderly residents. In the absence of federal action, the responsibility falls to the Commonwealth to defend our environment, our economy, and the people of our communities against the devastating effects of climate change.

H.3983 will provide critical updates to the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) and accelerate the commonwealth's transition to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 through targeted and cost-effective strategies implemented pursuant to a new, comprehensive and iterative emissions reduction roadmap.

The Commonwealth has previously taken important steps to mitigate climate change, most notably with the enactment of the landmark GWSA in 2008. Now, in the wake of the IPCC report, the Massachusetts Legislature must renew its bold leadership on climate.

I strongly urge favorable action on H.3983, so that it may advance to the House for a floor vote as soon as possible this session. Thank you for your consideration of my support for this critical piece of legislation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Hecht', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Hecht
State Representative
29th Middlesex District