

December 9, 2014

Dear Governor-elect Baker,

As local and state civic leaders, we encourage you to make solar energy a key element of Massachusetts' energy future.

By using solar energy to power our homes, businesses, schools, farms and government buildings, we can reduce pollution, cut energy bills, and boost local economies. Currently, only a small fraction of Massachusetts' power comes from the sun.

Solar is growing, in Massachusetts and across the country. Over the past three years solar capacity grew by 127 percent per year in Massachusetts. In the first half of 2014, more than half of the new electric power capacity installed in the U.S. was solar. Recent progress shows we can take it to the next level.

Solar helps the environment, boosts local economies, and creates local jobs that cannot be outsourced. Jobs in the solar industry grew ten times faster than the rest of the economy in 2013. And because solar has no fuel costs, it helps protect us from rising fossil fuel prices.

For the sake of our environment, our health, and the economy, we ask that you join us in committing the state to getting 20 percent of our power from the sun by 2025. We can achieve that goal if we grow solar by 30 percent per year.

The cost of solar is declining. The cost of air and water pollution from fossil fuels is growing, along with the threats posed by climate change. Please help to set strong goals for solar in Massachusetts, to put us on a path to clean energy leadership.

Sincerely,

[see attached]

Barnstable County

James M. Tinsley
City Councilor, Barnstable

Richard Elrick
Energy Coordinator for Bourne and Barnstable

Charles Sumner
Town Administrator, Brewster

Patricia Hughes
Selectman, Brewster

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Selectman, Chatham

Paul McCormick
Selectman, Dennis

Wayne A. Bergeron
Selectman, Dennis

Mary Pat Flynn
Selectman, Falmouth

Susan L. Moran
Selectman, Falmouth

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Selectman, Harwich

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Selectman, Provincetown

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Selectman, Sandwich

Susan James
Selectman, Sandwich

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Selectman, Alford

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Selectman, Alford

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Mt. Washington Board of Selectmen

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Vice President, City Council, North Adams

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City Councilor, North Adams

Eric Buddington
City Councilor, North Adams

Jennifer Breen
City Councilor, North Adams

Joshua Moran
City Councilor, North Adams

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Councilor at Large, Pittsfield

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Ward Councilor, Pittsfield

Nicholas Caccamo
Ward Councilor, Pittsfield

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Daniel Smith
Selectman, Easton

Dottie Fulginiti
Selectman, Easton

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Chair, Board of Selectmen, Fairhaven

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City Councilor, Fall River

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Dana Rebeiro
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Ward Councilor, New Bedford

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Ward Councilor, New Bedford

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City Councilor, Taunton

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City Councilor, Amesbury

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City Councilor, Beverly

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City Councilor, Gloucester

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City Councilor, Gloucester

Paul McGeary
City Councilor, Gloucester

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City Councilor, Gloucester

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Selectman, Groveland

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City Councilor, Haverhill

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City Councilor, Haverhill

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City Councilor, Newburyport

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City Councilor, Newburyport

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City Councilor, Newburyport

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City Councilor, Newburyport

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City Councilor, Newburyport

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Leverett Board of Selectmen

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Whately Board of Selectmen

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Chair, Board of Selectmen, Hampden

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Selectman, Hampden

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Ward Councilor, Holyoke

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At Large Councilor, Holyoke

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Ward Councilor, Holyoke

Jossie Valentin
Ward Councilor, Holyoke

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At Large Councilor, Holyoke

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Councilor at Large, Palmer

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Former Councilor at Large, Palmer

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City Councilor, Springfield

Zaida Luna
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Ward Councilor, Westfield

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City Councilor, Northampton

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City Councilor, Northampton

Ryan O'Donnell
City Councilor, Northampton

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Ashland Board of Selectmen

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City Councilor, Cambridge

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City Councilor, Cambridge

Leland Cheung
City Councilor, Cambridge

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City Councilor, Cambridge

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City Councilor, Cambridge

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City Councilor, Cambridge

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Selectman, Chelmsford

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City Councilor, Everett

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City Councilor, Everett

Joseph McGonagle
City Councilor, Everett

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Valerie Mulvey
Town Clerk, Framingham

Takashi Tada
Conservation Administrator, Groton

Jeffrey Barnes
Chair, Conservation Commission, Hopkinton

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Alderman at Large, Newton

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Ward Alderman, Newton

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Ward Alderman, Newton

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Alderman at Large, Newton

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Alderman at Large, Somerville

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Ward Alderman, Somerville

Rebekah Gewirtz
Ward Alderman, Somerville

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Councilor at Large, Watertown

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Winifred McGowen
Assistant Director of Planning and Conservation, Wilmington

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State Representative and Chair of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change,
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Selectman, Brookline

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Selectman, Brookline

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Clerk, Board of Selectmen, Medfield

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Chair, Board of Selectmen, Norfolk

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City Councilor, Quincy

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City Councilor, Quincy

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Selectman, Wareham

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City Councilor, Boston

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City Councilor, Boston

Michael Flaherty
City Councilor, Boston

Michelle Wu
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City Councilor, Boston

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City Councilor, Boston

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District Councilor, Chelsea

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Ward Councilor, Revere

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Dan Maguire
School Committee member, Revere

Michael Ferrante
School Committee member, Revere

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Selectman, Brookfield

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City Councilor, Fitchburg

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City Councilor, Gardner

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Lancaster Board of Selectmen

Lunenburg Board of Selectmen

Mendon Board of Selectmen

Millbury Board of Selectmen

Templeton Board of Selectmen

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Vice Chair, Board of Selectmen, Uxbridge

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