Health Professionals for 100% Renewable Energy
Statement of Support

February 4, 2020

Dear state officials,

As health professionals, including physicians, nurses, public health officials, environmental health researchers, epidemiologists, respiratory therapists, and medical trainees, we ask you to pass the 100% Renewable Energy Act filed by Representatives Decker and Garballey (H.2836) to protect public health, particularly for children and other vulnerable populations.

Our reliance on burning fossil fuels is harming our health. Pollution from the combustion of fossil fuels is linked to a wide range of health problems, including asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature death. These effects are felt by the most vulnerable members of our community, including children and the elderly.

Burning fossil fuels is also contributing to rising temperatures, which are linked to an increased rate of hospitalizations for life-threatening conditions like kidney failure and respiratory exacerbations. A warming environment also leads to an increased prevalence of vector borne diseases like West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Within the lifetime of a child born today, sea levels in Boston Harbor could rise by 7–10 feet, and the city of Boston could experience up to 90 days each summer with temperatures above 90 °F, unless we move quickly to reduce carbon emissions and transition to renewable energy.

As professionals working in the healthcare field, we recognize that health care facilities consume a lot of energy. The healthcare industry can lead the movement toward renewable energy and efficient building practices. Several institutions, including Partners Healthcare and Boston Medical Center, are moving quickly to reduce energy consumption and transition to renewable sources of energy.

We encourage you to do everything in your power to advance the 100% Renewable Energy Act, including:

● A commitment to source 100% of Massachusetts’ electricity from clean and renewable resources by 2035, and an acceleration of the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to achieve this target.
● A commitment to phase out the use of fossil fuels for other sectors, including heating and ground transportation, by 2045, and a mechanism to require annual reductions in the use of fossil fuels for those sectors.
● The establishment of an inter-agency council to coordinate the transition to 100% renewable energy.

By enacting this legislation, Massachusetts can take the steps necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, while building safer and healthier communities.
Sincerely,

Alex Rabin, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
Tufts University School of Medicine

Regina LaRocque, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Elizabeth Pinsky, MD
Pediatrician and Child Psychiatrist
Massachusetts General Hospital

Adrienne Allen
Medical Director of Quality and Safety
North Shore Physicians Group

Winston Bell
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Vaibhav Birda, MD
Clinical Fellow in Medicine
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Justine Blum, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Katie Brady
Medical Student
Tufts Medical School

Alison Bryant
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Amy Collins, MD
Senior Clinical Advisor for Physician Engagement,
Health Care Without Harm
Emergency Medicine Physician,
MetroWest Medical Center
David Davila  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Anjan Devaraj, MD  
Pulmonologist  
Tufts Medical Center

John Doyle, MD  
Tufts Medical Center

Joshua DuBow, MD  
Resident Physician  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Gabrielle Figueiredo, MD  
Tufts Medical Center

Steven Gerrish  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Nicholas Hill, MD  
Chief, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Division,  
Tufts Medical Center;  
Professor,  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Joelle Hochman  
Respiratory Therapist  
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Steve Jarzembowski, MD  
Tufts Medical Center

Pascaline Karanja  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Alexis Krumme  
Epidemiologist  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Natalie Kuhn  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Kathy Lu  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Dillon Neumann  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Julia Page  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School

Ani Papazian  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Amanda Paskavitz  
Research Assistant  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Krupa Patel, MD  
Assistant Professor, General Internal Medicine  
Boston Medical Center;  
Steering Committee,  
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility

Brian Persaud, MD  
Academic Hospitalist  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Travis Petersen  
Medical Student  
Tufts University School of Medicine

Laura Petrillo, MD  
Assistant in Medicine  
MGH Division of Palliative Care and Geriatrics;  
Instructor in Medicine  
Harvard Medical School
Rachel Porth
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Liam Power
MD, PhD student
Tufts Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Jim Recht, MD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Megi Resulaj
Medical student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Alessandra Scher
Medical student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Shalini Shah, DO
UMass Memorial Children’s Medical Center

Andrew Synn, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Maher Tabba, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Moussa Takla, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Clara Williamson
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Susie Yeo
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Laura Orlando, MPA
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Environmental Health
Boston University School of Public Health
Stephanie Doyle, MS  
Senior Associate  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  

Beth Rosenberg, MD  
Associate Professor  
Tufts University School of Medicine  

Suhas Gondi  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School  

Adam Beckman  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School  

Raquel Sofia Sandoval  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School  

Tomi Ojo  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School  

Nishu Uppal  
Medical student  
Harvard Medical School  

Corbin Ester  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School  

Katherine McDaniel  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School  

Wesley Chou  
Medical student  
Harvard Medical School  

Natalie Posever  
Medical Student  
Harvard Medical School
Edward Lu
Medical Student
Harvard Medical School

Logan Briggs
Medical Student
Harvard Medical School

Sarah Nisivaco
Medical Student
Harvard Medical School

Arhant Rao, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Susan Racine, MD
Primary Care Physician
Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates

Diane Sun, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Cara Lembo
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Jacqueline Shen
Medical Student
Tufts University School of Medicine

Philips (Cherng) Wu, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Dou Huang, MD
Tufts Medical Center

Alison Reaves, MD
Tufts Medical Center