



July 10, 2015

Maura Healey
The Honorable Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108-1518

Re: **Regional Electric Reliability Options and Gas Capacity Analysis**

Dear Madam Attorney General Healey:

Thank you for your leadership in undertaking a study of electric reliability needs in the New England region through 2030 and the options for meeting those needs. This study, conducted by the Analysis Group and Raab Associates with funding from the Barr Foundation, will fill a pressing need for analysis of the costs and benefits of various alternatives including energy efficiency, demand response, renewables, natural gas, and oil.

The Commonwealth is at a critical crossroads. The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) adopted in 2008 set ambitious targets for reductions of greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. This law and the Green Communities Act have catalyzed rapid progress in energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources, both of which are making important contributions to our economy and environmental health. For the past four years, Massachusetts ranked first in the nation on the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's scorecard of the states¹. Yet at the same time, we are faced with proposals for new gas transmission pipelines of previously unprecedented scope that would impact thousands of acres of public and private conservation lands, forests, farmlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. The need for this increased gas capacity has not been adequately studied, nor has it been evaluated in relation to the effects on the goals of the GWSA or the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The study you are commissioning will provide essential and transparent analysis of the options available to Massachusetts and the New England Region. Major energy infrastructure choices made today will affect the people and landscape of Massachusetts for generations to come. Thank you for helping to ensure those choices will be informed by objective analysis of the cost-effectiveness and sustainability implications of all available options. We look forward to the completion of the study this fall.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Clayton,
Acting President/ Vice President for Conservation Programs

¹ <http://aceee.org/files/pdf/state-sheet/massachusetts.pdf>

