



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR BENJAMIN B. DOWNING

Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden District

*Chairman, JOINT COMMITTEE ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES AND ENERGY*

*Chairman, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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May 21, 2015

Ms. Judith Judson, Chair
Energy Efficiency Advisory Council
Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Chair Judson and Council members,

I am pleased to recognize and thank the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council for all its efforts to advance energy efficiency in Massachusetts. Promoting energy efficiency is important, as it helps to lower consumer bills and reduce peak demand while also having positive environmental impacts. I commend the progress we have made in Massachusetts while noting that more still needs to be done.

As the Council develops the 2016-2018 Efficiency Investment Plan, I hope we continue to build on our past successes and develop robust savings goals. The Plan should also focus on prioritizing efficiency and demand reduction investments, especially those that address winter energy demand. So long as energy efficiency is less expensive than additional supply, more efficiency is our first and best option. I also hope the Council includes strategies for better engaging customers, such as effective programs to target renters and multi-family units, partnerships with community groups and organizations, and better utilization of data on customer classes to develop strategy to improve performance. Lastly, I believe a transparent, standardized data management system will make it easier to strategically and effectively implement efficiency programs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Setting ambitious targets and reducing peaks demand will have a positive impact on ratepayers and help us reach our ambitious clean energy and climate goals.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN B. DOWNING, *State Senator*
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District

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