



Hon. Michael J. Barrett, Senate Chairman
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House Boston, MA 02133-1053

Hon. Jeffrey N. Roy, House Chairman
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House, Boston, MA 02133-1053

Re: [H.3336](#), [S.2135](#), An Act Relative to Energy Facilities Siting Reform to Address Environmental Justice, Climate and Public Health

Dear Chairman Barrett and Chairman Roy,

I am writing to you today as a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as the Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association in support of [H.3336](#), [S.2135](#), An Act Relative to Energy Facilities Siting Reform to Address Environmental Justice, Climate and Public Health.

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) was founded by a group of concerned citizens and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1972. MyRWA's mission is to protect and restore clean water and related natural resources in the basin's communities and to promote responsible stewardship of our natural resources through educational initiatives. MyRWA accomplishes its mission by forging strong links with citizens' groups, universities, businesses and government agencies. These alliances permit MyRWA to serve as a strong voice for the restoration of a healthy environment and to work throughout the watershed, documenting current conditions and advocating for resource management and protection. This collaborative approach has created a strong watershed voice that is helping to attract much-needed public and private resources to the Mystic.

As an environmental organization, MyRWA is particularly attuned to how proposed projects will affect existing conditions for urban communities in the watershed. The passing of this bill favorably out of committee is crucial in considering the health impacts that environmental justice communities *currently* face within our watershed during the reviewing process for new facilities.

The long history of building the most polluting energy facilities in Black and Brown communities must stop. This structural injustice can be fixed by passing this bill. MyRWA advocates to ensure *all* members of our community have a seat at the table when new generating facilities are proposed within our watershed. It is crucial that our underserved communities are able to greenlight clean energy facilities that would bring jobs and benefit local neighborhoods.

Massachusetts is seen as a climate leader across the country. MyRWA urges the championing of the Siting Reform bill, the reversal of legacies in environmental injustice and favorable reporting of this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Patrick Herron
Executive Director