

Testimony Regarding Decarbonization Bills from SAFE Co-Chair Pat Gozemba
SUPPORT for H.3227/S.2093 An Act expanding access to the fossil fuel free demonstration project and H.3203/S.2015 The Future of Clean Heat

Representative Jeffrey N. Roy, Chair
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

Senator Michael J. Barrett, Chair
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

Good afternoon, Chair Roy, and members of the committee thank you for holding this hearing. I'm Pat Gozemba, Co-Chair of SAFE-Salem Alliance for the Environment. SAFE and the City of Salem strongly support **H.3227/S.2093 An Act expanding access to the fossil fuel free demonstration project** and **H.3203/S.2015 *The Future of Clean Heat***.

This legislation will offer our Environmental Justice and Gateway city an opportunity to get out further from under the domination of fossil fuels by allowing us to assure that no more buildings using fossil fuels are built in our midst.

On a personal note, Chair Roy, Salem thanks you for your support and leadership in helping us develop our Offshore Wind Port, but I want to remind all of us that OSW will not save us alone. We need to get off fossil fuels.

The Salem City Council voted unanimously to submit to the legislature a Home Rule Petition asking to join the 10 Municipality demonstration project. Please help pass our Home Rule Petition. Like Boston, Somerville, and Northampton, Salem is waitlisted to join the 10 Demonstration Project. We urge TUE to recommend that all the waitlisted cities be invited to join.

In doing this you will expand by 17% the number of Massachusetts residents who will be positively affected by the banning of fossil fuels in new construction in their communities and And more significantly, you will be including a larger proportion of our state's Environmental Justice population—like ours in Salem.

As an Environmental Justice city bearing the burden of producing power for a large swath of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts, we have been among your energy producers for over three-quarters of a century--first with a coal plant and now with a gas plant that is not slated for decommissioning until 2050.

That's right, we in Salem have 27 more years to live with a polluting power plant. By 2050, Salemites will have suffered for a century in breathing toxic emissions and particulate matter—all to produce energy for the Commonwealth. This is the reality of many EJ cities.

Despite living with a power plant for 75 years, Salem has created an impressive environmental record of Greening our community. We want to continue building on our successes and your passing of **An Act Expanding Access to the Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Project** would offer us a huge opportunity to continue to eliminate fossil fuels in our midst.

Please do not be influenced by the fossil fuel industry, realtors, and utilities into limiting the demonstration project to 10 municipalities. Salem is counting on you to lead and to give us the option of picking up the challenge to make building electrification a reality in Salem while giving Massachusetts a shot at net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Salem is ready to do our part. Please give us the green light to prohibit the inclusion of fossil fuels in any of our new buildings.

Finally, SAFE urges you to support **H.3203/S.2105 the Future of Clean Heat**. We support the testimony that our allies in the Gas Transition Allies, HEET, and Mothers Out Front offer in this hearing. Let's do all that we can to clear the air.