

## **Decarbonization Hearings, July 12 & 13, 2023**

Testimony from SAFE Co-chair Jim Mulloy

Thank you Chair Barrett, Vice Chair Pacheco and members of the Committee

My name is Jim Mulloy – I am Co-Chair of Salem Alliance for the Environment, SAFE.

SAFE supports Senate bills 2093 and 2105 and House bills 3227 and 3203. And we also support H.3846 by Rep Manny Cruz on the Home Rule petition for Salem.

Senator Barrett, we met about 7 years ago when I began my work in MA as a climate activist. You championed carbon pricing and I was a member of Citizens' Climate Lobby which advocates for a national fee and dividend approach. By training I am a leukemia researcher. In 2016 my husband and I both left our primary careers to devote our time and energy to addressing the climate crisis. I do not believe most people in this room think the Commonwealth is acting with the urgency needed to address this crisis. We are at 1.2 degrees and reports show we will be at 1.5 degrees above "normal" in little more than a decade. This is catastrophic and members of this committee understand this. Although the contribution from MA emissions is negligible relative to the rest of the world, our leadership in the US is critical, and SAFE believes this leadership is lacking on this issue right now. The reasoning behind allowing only 10 municipalities out of 351 to transition off natural gas in new residential developments is unclear to me and to SAFE when New York state just took a similar step statewide. If New York can do this, MA can do this. We also don't understand why the Future of Clean Heat was not passed last term when we know this committee is aware our housing stock must be electrified and this bill includes many of the approaches that need to be piloted. Networked geothermal grids and widespread adoption of heat pump technology are necessary first steps to getting MA off methane. The MA legislature no longer has the luxury of taking 4 terms to reach consensus on approaches. SAFE hopes that this term, with the Democrats having the trifecta, addressing the climate crisis equitably will be a top priority for the Commonwealth.

SAFE feels great urgency on speeding up this energy transition in a just and equitable way, and we hope this committee feels similarly. Thank you for your attention.