

Massachusetts High Technology Council Statement on Federal Energy Legislation

Proposed by Energy Efficiency and Environmental Stewardship Team
Approved by Board of Directors
6/28/10

The Massachusetts High Technology Council calls on the United States Senate to pass an energy bill during the current session that helps to jumpstart the clean energy economy by:

- Establishing a predictable, broad-based mechanism relative to setting a national price on carbon
- Eliminating oil, gas, and coal industry “preference” subsidies that are not market-based and put clean energy development at a competitive disadvantage
- Significantly increasing public and private investments in clean energy R&D and energy infrastructure

These features meet the following policy criteria established by the High Tech Council:

- Reduces dependency on foreign energy supplies and supports US energy security
- Improves energy efficiency and promotes sustainability
- Strengthens Massachusetts’ economic competitiveness and job growth
- Strengthens Massachusetts’ leadership in innovation and clean-energy technology
- Limits costs to business and consumers by avoiding unsustainable taxpayer investments (e.g. permanent subsidies)
- Has a demonstrable positive impact on public health and the environment
- Promotes predictable market-based funding sources for clean technology development

The Council also calls on state government to review existing state renewable energy taxes and utility surcharges that add to the costs of doing business in Massachusetts that may no longer be necessary under federal legislation. It additionally calls on the federal government to implement any new law in as efficient a way as possible and to minimize the establishment of any new bureaucracy given budget constraints.

In 2010, the Council’s board of directors established the Energy Efficiency and Environmental Stewardship Team to provide high-level member participation in shaping the Council’s ongoing energy and environmental state and federal policy and program initiatives. This builds on the Council’s historic role in helping to shape the state’s restructured energy market and in providing nearly \$100 million in aggregate energy savings for members through innovative products and services, as well as the Council’s wider impact in public policy arena.