

HOUSE No. 738

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Joanne M. Comerford

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threats posed by nuclear weapons and climate change to the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

Table with 3 columns: NAME, DISTRICT/ADDRESS, DATE ADDED. Lists 15 petitioners including Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Joanne M. Comerford, Jack Patrick Lewis, Erika Uyterhoeven, Natalie M. Higgins, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Patrick Joseph Kearney, Tommy Vitolo, Ruth B. Balsler, Simon Cataldo, Samantha Montaño, James C. Arena-DeRosa, Mike Connolly, Carmine Lawrence Gentile, and Kay Khan.

<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/10/2024</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/11/2024</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2024</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2024</i>

HOUSE No. 738

By Representative Sabadosa of Northampton and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 738) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Joanne M. Comerford and others for an investigation by a special commission relative to threats posed by nuclear weapons and climate change. Emergency Preparedness and Management.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threats posed by nuclear weapons and climate change to the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1 **Resolved**, that there shall be a special citizens commission to investigate and make
2 recommendations regarding the transition away from the development and production of nuclear
3 weapons within the commonwealth towards the development and production of green
4 technologies needed to address the climate emergency;

5 The citizens commission shall investigate and report on the extent to which jobs,
6 businesses and communities in the commonwealth are dependent on the development and
7 production of nuclear weapons and the extent to which funds under the control of the
8 commonwealth are invested in those activities. The commission shall further investigate and
9 make recommendations regarding any financial or legal measures that may assist or encourage
10 the transition from nuclear weapons-related jobs and activities taking place within the
11 commonwealth to jobs and activities that instead directly address the climate emergency. The
12 commission shall determine what assistance from the federal government would be needed to

13 implement its recommendations and how Massachusetts as a state might leverage the federal
14 government to provide such assistance.

15 The citizens commission shall consist of 11 United States citizens who are residents of
16 Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 of
17 whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the secretary
18 of the commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the attorney general; and 7 of whom
19 shall be appointed by the governor, of whom 6 shall be selected by the governor from a group of
20 10 individuals nominated by the Massachusetts Warheads to Windmills Coalition, a statewide
21 coalition of peace and environmental organizations that includes Massachusetts Peace Action,
22 Inc., Climate Action Now, 350 Mass, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, Inc., Greater
23 Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and others; provided, however, that all appointments
24 shall be made from a list of applicants who have publicly applied for such appointment. The
25 governor's office shall post all applications on a webpage, established for the public knowledge
26 and oversight of the appointment to and operation of the commission. No person may be
27 appointed to the commission who is a current employee of any company or military installation
28 involved in the development, production or maintenance of nuclear weapons.

29 An application to serve on the commission shall state: (i) the intent of the applicant to
30 comply with and advance the policy established by this resolve; (ii) the applicant's qualifications
31 and interest in serving on the commission; (iii) the city or town in which the applicant resides;
32 and (iv) the employment of the applicant, if employed. The governor shall post the appointment
33 opportunity on the official website of the commonwealth within 30 days of the effective date of
34 this resolve. All applications for service on the commission shall be submitted within 30 days of
35 the posting of the appointment opportunity.

36 All appointments shall be made no sooner than 90 days and no later than 120 days
37 following the effective date of this resolve. In making appointments to the commission, the
38 speaker of the house of representatives, senate president, secretary of the commonwealth,
39 attorney general and governor shall consider the range of expertise needed on the commission,
40 and shall seek to ensure that the commission reflects a range of geographical and demographic
41 backgrounds. Appointees to the commission shall serve without compensation.

42 The governor's initial appointee shall convene the first meeting of the commission no
43 later than 30 days after the appointment of the final member of the commission. Members of the
44 commission shall, at their first meeting, elect a chair or co-chairs, as the members of the
45 commission may decide by majority vote. The commission shall meet on a regular basis to
46 research and to gather evidence, testimony and advice in the manner that the members of the
47 commission determine is most conducive to achieving the objectives of this resolve; provided,
48 however, that the commission proceedings and activities shall be subject to the open meeting law
49 established by sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A of the General Laws and shall be
50 considered public records as defined in clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 of the
51 General Laws; and provided further, that all residents of Massachusetts have a reasonable
52 opportunity to offer their views and ideas related to the policies herein to the commission.

53 The commission shall hold at least 5 public hearings in different parts of the
54 commonwealth to inform citizens and legislators about the humanitarian consequences to the
55 commonwealth resulting from any possible use of nuclear weapons and the implications of the
56 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, including but not limited to a full appraisal of
57 how jobs, technologies and industries currently devoted to nuclear weapons within the

58 commonwealth are likely to be affected by the Treaty and the options for converting these to jobs
59 and activities that instead address the climate emergency.

60 The commission shall report the results of its investigation and study and its
61 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
62 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives
63 and clerk of the senate, with copies to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and all
64 members of the Massachusetts federal congressional delegation, on or before December 31,
65 2025. The report may include recommendations for specific legislation aimed at reducing the
66 exposure of private companies and public institutions within the commonwealth to the legislative
67 risk of investing in nuclear weapons. The report may also include recommendations for the
68 effective transferal of human and financial resources within the commonwealth away from the
69 nuclear weapons business and towards the global effort to address the climate emergency.