

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1478**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Cynthia Stone Creem**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to consumer choice of green electricity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cynthia Stone Creem	First Middlesex and Norfolk
Susan C. Fargo	Third Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S01925 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### AN ACT RELATIVE TO CONSUMER CHOICE OF GREEN ELECTRICITY.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 1H the following section:--

3           Section 1I. The department is hereby authorized and directed to require electric companies  
4 organized pursuant to this chapter to provide retail customers with the option of purchasing  
5 electricity derived from renewable energy. The department shall: promulgate rules and  
6 regulations to establish a “green electricity purchasing” program; establish fair and efficient rates  
7 for electricity generated from renewable energy sources; and develop a program to educate retail  
8 customers about renewable energy options. Renewable energy purchasing options established by  
9 this act will be separate and distinct from what is required by the renewable portfolio standard  
10 regulations (225 CMR 14.00), as established by the division of energy resources. The  
11 department shall implement the requirements of this act no later than July 1, 2010. Biannual  
12 reports must be filed by the department to the general court’s joint committee on energy and joint  
13 committee on government regulations detailing the implementation of the act. For the purposes

14 of this section “renewable energy” or “renewables” will be defined as either (i) resources whose  
15 common characteristic is that they are nondepletable or are naturally replenishable but flow-  
16 limited, or (ii) existing or emerging non-fossil fuel energy sources or technologies, which have  
17 significant potential for commercialization in New England and New York, and shall include the  
18 following: solar photovoltaic or solar thermal electric energy; wind energy; ocean thermal, wave,  
19 or tidal energy; fuel cells; landfill gas; waste-to-energy which is a component of conventional  
20 municipal solid waste plant technology in commercial use; naturally flowing water and  
21 hydroelectric; and low-emission, advanced biomass power conversion technologies, such as  
22 gasification using such biomass fuels as wood, agricultural, or food wastes, energy crops, biogas,  
23 biodiesel, or organic refuse-derived fuel. The following technologies or fuels shall not be  
24 considered renewable energy supplies: coal, oil, natural gas except when used in fuel cells, and  
25 nuclear power.