

SENATE No. 453

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 to review, consider, and evaluate, and to establish a suitable body and/or Special Commission to consider Climate Change Economic Consequences.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street – Unit N Winchester, Mass.
01890*

SENATE No. 453

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 453) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to review, consider, and evaluate, and to establish a suitable body and/or Special Commission to consider Climate Change Economic Consequences. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

Resolve to review, consider, and evaluate, and to establish a suitable body and/or Special Commission to consider Climate Change Economic Consequences.

1 **Resolved**, 2.) It appears, and it is generally agreed, that Climate Change, is occurring,
2 across our Planet Earth, and that there are actual present consequences, and potential actual
3 future consequences of these circumstances. It has generally been determined that there is a
4 global warming phenomena, that this can also lead to various extremes, that cause rises in water
5 levels, extreme variations in temperature, risks of extreme droughts, and other effects.

6 3.) While there are numerous arguments regarding causation, its extent, and its potential
7 severity, there is little argument, as to the reality of these circumstances.

8 4.) Important aspects of government, public policy, and public services, include
9 providing for the public good, in terms of public health, public safety, and reasonable protection
10 of property, both public, and private.

11 5.) Recent disasters, and continuing erosion, especially along the Massachusetts coast,
12 numerous flooding events within the Commonwealth, and other severe weather events, have

13 caused damage to the Commonwealth, its citizens, its businesses, and its economic costs; and
14 potentially presage many further, potentially damaging events.

15 6.) While larger policies, can most effectively be dealt with by the broader Federal
16 agencies, and government; and various international agreements; there are numerous practical
17 circumstances, that should be addressed, and measured, in terms of looking forward, for the
18 reasonable security of our Commonwealth.

19 7.) It is in the interests of all residents of our Commonwealth, their local governments in
20 the municipalities, and other public agencies, to anticipate such costs, needs for various actions,
21 and what amounts of financing, may be needed, as part of responsible public services, and long-
22 term planning. This will assist residents, home owners, businesses, institutions, and other
23 stakeholders, in their long-term planning, as well as their ordinary operations.

24 8.) Therefore, this Resolve, creates a Climate Change Economic Consequences
25 Commission, to collect data (including both existing, and new needed data); assess various
26 likely, and possible, scenarios, relating to climate changes, environmental variations, and other
27 reasonable adjustments of public policy; and to report on various levels of cost, appropriate
28 descriptions of insurance, and financing; in terms of individuals, possible disasters, and other
29 related matters, that are important to the people of our Commonwealth.

30 9.) Membership – The membership of this Commission shall be appointed as follows: A
31 total membership of twenty-one (21); five (5) appointed by the Governor, five (5) by the
32 President of the Senate, five (5) by the Speaker of the House; and the remaining six (6) by the
33 first fifteen (15), from individuals of the Commonwealth applying, including representatives of
34 organizations, scientists, local city and town municipalities, and ordinary citizens.

35 10.) Duration of Commission – This Commission shall hold regular hearings, across the
36 Commonwealth, and file reports, on an at least annual basis, completing its business, not later
37 than five (5) years after its establishment.