

SENATE No. 2018

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James T. Welch

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 bill:

An Act providing for community-based green infrastructure in Western Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

SENATE No. 2018

By Mr. Welch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2018) of James T. Welch, Bud L. Williams and Donald F. Humason, Jr. for legislation to provide for community-based green infrastructure in Western Massachusetts. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act providing for community-based green infrastructure in Western Massachusetts.

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 25A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 10A the following subsection:-

3 Section 10B. (a) Subject to appropriation, the department shall establish local community
4 utility associations and local utility districts designed to serve areas not larger than a census tract
5 and authorizes such associations to work in conjunction with utility companies and with other
6 relevant agencies and craft unions to design, implement, operate, and maintain facilities such as
7 photovoltaic solar power generation, geothermal heating and cooling, residential conservation
8 efforts, stimulation of local agriculture, extension of vehicle fleet life, support of walkable
9 development patterns, and conversion of existing vehicles to electric propulsion.

10 (b) The department, working in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of
11 Housing and Community Development, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation,
12 shall work with and assist community development corporations, neighborhood councils, and

13 other non-profit organizations interested in adapting their communities to a more sustainable
14 future to develop strategies to carry out this work in their communities. This assistance shall
15 include the development of model documents governing their authority in working with multiple
16 property owners within the communities and relating to utility, energy, transportation, and
17 communications companies relative to individual solar and communications projects as well as
18 collective geo-thermal and 'Community Solar' projects.