

HOUSE No. 877

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day, (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: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <i>Vincent Lawrence Dixon</i> | <i>60 Lake Street-Unit N, Winchester, MA 01890</i> | <i>2/3/2021</i> |

HOUSE No. 877

By Mr. Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 877) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the economic consequences of climate change. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

Resolve to review, consider, and evaluate, and to establish a suitable body and/or special commission to consider climate change economic consequences.

1 **Resolved**, 1.) 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, exaggerated extremes in
6 storms, and other effects.

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

9 3.) Important aspects of government, public policy, and public services, include, but are
10 not
11 limited to, providing for the public good, in terms of lives, public health, public safety,

12 and reasonable protection of property, both public, and private.

13 4.) Recent disasters, and continuing erosion, especially along the Massachusetts coast,
14 numerous flooding events within the Commonwealth, and other severe weather events,
15 have
16 caused damage to the Commonwealth, its citizens, its businesses, and its economic costs;
17 and
18 potentially presage many further, potentially damaging events.

19 5.) While larger policies, can most effectively be dealt with by the broader Federal
20 agencies, and government; and various international agreements; there are numerous
21 practical
22 circumstances, that should be addressed, and measured, in terms of looking forward, for
23 the
24 reasonable security of our Commonwealth; and its cities, and towns.

25 6.) It is in the interests of all residents of our Commonwealth, that their local
26 governments in
27 the municipalities, and other public agencies, be able to anticipate such costs, needs for
28 various
29 actions, and what amounts of financing, may be needed, as part of responsible public
30 services,

31 and long-term planning. This will assist residents, home owners, businesses, institutions,
32 and
33 other stakeholders, in their long-term planning, as well as their ordinary operations.

34 7.) Therefore, this Resolve, creates a Climate Change Economic Consequences

35 Commission, to collect data (including both existing, and new needed data); assess

36 various

37 likely, and possible, scenarios, relating to climate changes, environmental variations, and

38 other

39 reasonable adjustments of public policy; and to report on various levels of cost,

40 appropriate

41 descriptions of insurance, and financing; in terms of individuals, possible disasters, and

42 other

43 related matters, that are important to the people of our Commonwealth.

44 8.) Membership – The membership of this Commission shall be appointed as follows: A

45 total membership of twenty-one (21); five (5) appointed by the Governor, five (5) by the

46 President of the Senate, five (5) by the Speaker of the House; and the remaining six (6)

47 by the

48 first fifteen (15), from individuals of the Commonwealth applying, including

49 representatives of

50 organizations, scientists, local city and town municipalities, insurance adjusters, financial
51 organizational planners, infrastructure experts, and ordinary citizens.

52 9.) Duration of Commission – This Commission shall hold regular hearings, at least four
53 (4) per

54 year, across the Commonwealth, and file reports, on an at least annual basis, completing
55 its

56 business, not later than five (5) years after its establishment.