

SENATE No. 2185

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam Gomez

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:

Adam Gomez

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden

SENATE No. 2185

By Mr. Gomez, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2185) of Adam Gomez 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-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

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 Chapter 25A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 10A the following section:-

3 Section 10B.

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

11 (b) The department, working in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of
12 Housing and Community Development, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation,

13 shall work in conjunction with and assist community development corporations, neighborhood
14 councils, and other non-profit organizations interested in adapting their communities to a more
15 sustainable future to develop strategies to carry out this work in their communities. This
16 assistance shall include, but not be limited to, the development of model documents governing
17 their authority in working with multiple property owners within the communities and relating to
18 utility, energy, transportation, and communications companies relative to individual solar and
19 communications projects as well as collective geo-thermal and 'Community Solar' projects.