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## **Coalition Joins with Youth Leaders for *Intergenerational Lobby Day* To Support Carbon Pollution Pricing at State House**

**Boston, Mass. (January 28, 2020)** – More than 170 youth leaders from around the state, together with older allies, will meet their legislators Wednesday at the State House to argue for critical climate legislation they need to secure their future, the day before an important vote on the Senate’s climate legislation..

They will demand support for carbon pollution fees that equitably raise funds for green infrastructure (H.2810); ambitious 100% Renewable targets (H.2836); a guarantee and implementation of explicit protections for environmental justice communities (H.4264); and specific proposed amendments to the forthcoming Senate climate bill (S.2477).

**What:** Intergenerational Lobby Day to support bold action on climate change, including carbon pollution pricing

**When:** Wednesday, January 29, Noon

**Where:** More than 170 participants expected to gather on the State House steps before going to meetings with legislators

As 16-year-old Grace testified at a recent hearing: “For the air we breathe. For the land we stand on. I’m fighting for all those who can’t and all the voices silenced.”

The Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future – a coalition of more than 60 organizations that support putting an equitable price on carbon pollution – is fully supporting and participating in this initiative, which has been organized by five youth-led climate organizations: Our Climate, MASSPIRG Students, Massachusetts Climate Strikes, Sunrise Boston and Fridays for Future.

“Young people clearly understand the urgency of becoming much bolder in addressing the climate crisis, and we are thrilled they are taking the lead in this fight,” said Cindy Luppi, Coordinator of the carbon pricing coalition – called the Massachusetts Campaign for a Clean Energy Future – and New England Director of Clean Water Action. “Legislators now have an opportunity to demonstrate to young people – to all of us – that our institutions are still capable of rising to the occasion and taking the necessary steps to protect our state and our people.”

This lobbying day comes two weeks after an unprecedented showing of support for carbon pricing legislation, which featured a hearing room that was standing room only for three hours. Fourteen youth leaders testified in favor of H.2810, the House carbon pricing bill, before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The coalition is seeking carbon pricing legislation that would be economy-wide, effective, fair and equitable, and assure that low- and moderate income households as well as vulnerable businesses are protected. In the House, H.2810, “An Act to promote green infrastructure and reduce carbon emissions,” reflects these principles. Originally sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg) with 107 co-sponsors, the bill is being championed by Rep. Bill Driscoll, Jr. (D-Milton) following Benson’s resignation.

In the Senate, the coalition is working with legislators to assure that the final Senate bill also reflects these principles. Specifically, the coalition is backing amendments numbered 11, 29, 34, 90, and 111.

When effectively designed and implemented, carbon pricing can simultaneously reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming and damage our health, and strengthen the economy by accelerating investment in clean energy and increasing jobs, while protecting low- and moderate-income households as well as vulnerable businesses.

The coalition supports the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) so long as it addresses those same values regarding the use of revenues. TCI can help reduce the 40 percent of emissions generated by the transportation sector. Another 20 percent of emissions are generated by the electricity sector, which is covered by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

However, the remaining 40 percent of emissions, generated by heating fuels and buildings, remain uncovered, and TCI will not take effect until final agreement can be reached among the participating northeastern states.

Massachusetts is legally mandated under the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), to cut carbon dioxide emissions up to 25 percent below the 1990 level by 2020, and at least 80 percent below 1990 by 2050. This week, the Senate is considering legislation that will require Massachusetts to have net zero emissions by 2050. Achieving our mandate will help us avoid the worst, most costly impacts from the climate crisis while setting a precedent for other states to follow.

New England already has experienced more global warming than any other region, and already is facing the increased costs of climate change. Temperatures here will increase 3.6 degrees above pre-industrial levels by 2035, and we are already halfway there. This is the highest temperature increase in the Continental United States, according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment.

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