

Amendments to Senate Omnibus Action Guide for Mass Power Forward June 19th-25th 2024



Context

Thursday and Friday afternoons (June 20th & 21st), Republicans used a parliamentary maneuver to table debate on the Climate bill S.2829. Discussion will resume on the climate bill on Tuesday morning June 25th after agreement was made for no further delays. The purpose of their delay is to shore up support for 5 pro-gas amendments that would ELIMINATE THE GAS TRANSITION PROVISIONS FROM THE BILL. Gas companies and unions are behind this effort. SO WE HAVE MORE TIME TO CALL OUR SENATORS!!

7 8 Democrats are now co-sponsoring one of the pro-gas amendments #122 (Feeney/sponsor, Velis, Collins, Moore, Keenan, Timilty, Cronin, Brady) along with 4 Republicans. This amendment was titled to deceptively seem like it focused on worker and gas system safety. Resulting from climate activist's calls to some of these Senators this afternoon, some are already rethinking their support of Amendment #122 and one has rescinded!

Important note: We strongly support amendments to the bill that would add protections for workers in the transition. These are Amendments #119 and 120, below. And while at least one union is pushing these bad amendments, the AFL-CIO did not include them in its letter to the Senate.

[See this blogpost for our ongoing analysis.](#)

SUMMARY

1. [Find your Senator.](#)
2. [Check this tracker](#) to see what your senator has or has not done yet.
3. Send them an email asking them to take action. Sample email below.
4. Follow-Up with a phone call. See the sample script below.

Further Content

The Amendments Mass Power Forward Support and Prioritize	Pg. 2
The Sample Email	Pg. 3
The Call Script	Pg. 4
Write and submit an LTE about gas!	Pg. 5
Recruiting others to take action email	Pg. 6 - 6

The Amendments Mass Power Forward Support and Prioritize

[Find the full text of any amendment by clicking on the number here.](#)

PRIORITY Amendments

116 Accurately Assessing Community Impacts (DiDomenico)	Will restore the basic purpose of an assessment of cumulative impacts when siting a facility in a community. If enacted without the amendment, the bill would prevent the EFSB from assessing all of the impacts of other types of industrial development that a community has borne. This is the core of cumulative impacts analysis.
100 Improving Outdoor Air Quality (Jehlen)	Will create a technical advisory committee for air quality; Direct the DEP to identify at least 8 pollution hot spots; Install air monitors; and reduce the air pollution by 50% by 2030.
14 Protecting the Commonwealth from Gas Expansion (Gomez)	Will halt large gas infrastructure expansion projects from being approved by the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB). This is not line extensions, obligation to serve, or the right to demand service.
15 Halting the Expansion of Large Gas Pipes (Gomez)	Will stop the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) from approving gas companies to expand into new towns & cities not already served by gas.
16 Protecting the Climate and Ratepayers from Gas Expansion (Gomez)	Will halt both large gas infrastructure expansions approvals by the EFSB (Amendment 14) and gas territory expansions by the DPU (Amendment 15).

ALSO IMPORTANT

31 Commuter Rail Electrification (Crighton)	Electrifies multiple commuter rail lines in the MBTA
---	--

34 Updating MLP Clean Energy Standards (Gomez)	Removing biomass from the MLP Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard
35 Limiting Biomass (Gomez)	Limiting biomass in the Alternative Portfolio Standard
106 Stemming the Expansion of RNG and Hydrogen (Eldridge)	Would stop RNG and Hydrogen from being defined as “gas”.
28 Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (Gomez)	Would provide funding for decarbonization measures we need across sectors to meet Massachusetts' ambitious climate goals.
57 Clean Energy Siting and Permitting, Local Option Amendment (Mark)	Makes the consolidated permit a local option (like stretch code)
101 Municipal Permit Timing Safety Valve When Awaiting Response (Comerford)	Gives extra time to municipalities under the consolidated permit
119 Prevailing Wage (Feeney)	Requires the application of prevailing wage laws to work done on energy infrastructure
120 Labor Standards and Reporting for Clean Energy Procurement (Feeney)	Requires labor standards (prevailing wage, apprenticeship utilization, plans for labor harmony) in the procurement/solicitation of clean energy

Amendments to **OPPOSE**

88 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)	Seeks to repeal (Section 46) putting conditions in place for when the DPU can allow a gas company to expand into a new municipality
97 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)	Seeks to repeal (Section 74) obligation to serve reform
98 Consumer Rights (Collins)	Seeks to repeal (Sections 46 & 74) putting conditions in place for when the DPU can allow a gas company to expand into a new municipality and obligation to serve reform
102 Preserving Gas Safety Enhancement Program (O'Connor)	Seeks to repeal (Section 76) planned decommissioning of the gas system
122 Continuing Safety Improvements of the Gas Network (Feeney)	Seeks to repeal (Section 76) planned decommissioning of the gas system

The Sample Email

Note that you can adapt this email if they are

- a) An original sponsor of one of the amendments (please thank)*
- b) Have co-sponsored some but not all (thank for the ones they have!)*

TO: Find their email [here](#) or [here](#).

SUBJECT: **Urgent Climate Justice Amendment Asks for Thursday**

Dear Senator NAME,

My name is NAME and I am a constituent at ADDRESS. I am writing to you regarding the Senate Climate Omnibus bill. I am glad that the bill addresses cumulative impact analysis and brings funding opportunities for intervenors. However, there are some things that need to be addressed through amendments. Will you co-sponsor the following:

PRIORITY

- 116 Accurately Assessing Community Impacts (DiDomenico)**
- 100 Improving Outdoor Air Quality (Jehlen)**
- 14 Protecting the Commonwealth from Gas Expansion (Gomez)**
- 15 Halting the Expansion of Large Gas Pipes (Gomez)**
- 16 Protecting the Climate and Ratepayers from Gas Expansion (Gomez)**

ALSO IMPORTANT

- 31 Commuter Rail Electrification (Crighton)
- 34 Updating MLP Clean Energy Standards (Gomez)
- 35 Limiting Biomass (Gomez)
- 106 Stemming the Expansion of RNG and Hydrogen (Eldridge)
- 28 Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (Gomez)
- 57 Clean Energy Siting and Permitting, Local Option Amendment (Mark)
- 101 Municipal Permit Timing Safety Valve When Awaiting Response (Comerford)
- Enhancement Program (O'Connor)
- 122 Continuing Safety Improvements of the Gas Network (Feeney)

Oppose

- 88 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)
- 97 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)
- 98 Consumer Rights (Collins)
- 102 Preserving Gas Safety

This is important to me because

Best,
NAME

The Call Script

Find their phone numbers [here](#) or [here](#).

Parts of the Call	Sample Script
Find the right person	Hello, I'm calling for Senator NAME's office.
ID yourself as a constituent	My name is NAME and I am a constituent living at ADDRESS.
Context	I am calling to ask the Senator to co-sponsor several amendments for the Climate Omnibus bill. Do you need a pen to write them down?
The Ask	As part of ORGANIZATION and the Mass Power Forward Coalition, I'd like my Senator to co-sponsor the following amendments PRIORITY 116 Accurately Assessing Community Impacts (DiDomenico) 100 Improving Outdoor Air Quality (Jehlen) 14 Protecting the Commonwealth from Gas Expansion (Gomez) 15 Halting the Expansion of Large Gas Pipes (Gomez) 16 Protecting the Climate and Ratepayers from Gas Expansion (Gomez) ALSO IMPORTANT 31 Commuter Rail Electrification (Crighton) 34 Updating MLP Clean Energy Standards (Gomez) 35 Limiting Biomass (Gomez) 106 Stemming the Expansion of RNG and Hydrogen (Eldridge) 28 Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (Gomez) 57 Clean Energy Siting and Permitting, Local Option Amendment (Mark) 101 Municipal Permit Timing Safety Valve When Awaiting Response (Comerford)

	Oppose 88 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor) 97 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor) 98 Consumer Rights (Collins) 102 Preserving Gas Safety Enhancement Program (O'Connor) 122 Continuing Safety Improvements of the Gas Network (Feeney)
Close	Thank you and have a nice day.

Please email us as mapowerforward@gmail.com if you think you have any intel for us!

As we are in heat waves, please consider writing a letter to the editor with this toolkit!

 The Time Is Now- Climate Omnibus Bill: Letter to the Editor Toolkit

Email to recruit others to take action

Dear NAME,

As we suffer a potentially record setting heat wave and celebrate Juneteenth, we ask for your action for climate and environmental justice. It is critical that we heal the racism and classism of the past and stop repeating those mistakes. The next two days are crucial for moving forward on three of our priorities - cleaning the air, stopping more pollution in our environmental justice communities, and preventing the expansion of the gas system.

On Monday the State Senate Committee on Ways and Means released their long-awaited 97 page Climate Omnibus bill ([S. 2829](#)). Legislators and advocates had just one day to read the bill, draft amendments, and file them before the Tuesday deadline. **Now, we need your help to pass Amendments and make sure that the final Senate Climate Omnibus bill adequately addresses the crisis we face.**

There are 3 things you can do to advance climate and environmental justice:

1. Send an email to your Senator (Sample below)
2. Call your Senator (Sample below)
3. Submit a Letter to the Editor ([LTE guide](#))

Onwards!

The Planning Team at Mass Power Forward

SAMPLE EMAIL

TO: Find their email [here](#) or [here](#).

SUBJECT: **Urgent Climate and Environmental Justice Amendment Asks for Thursday**

Dear Senator **NAME**,

My name is **NAME** and I am a constituent at **ADDRESS**. Happy Juneteenth. I am writing to you regarding the Senate Climate Omnibus bill. I am glad that the bill addresses cumulative impact analysis and brings funding opportunities for intervenors. However, there are some things that need to be addressed through amendments. Will you co-sponsor the following PRIORITIES:

PRIORITY

- 116 Accurately Assessing Community Impacts (DiDomenico)
- 100 Improving Outdoor Air Quality (Jehlen)
- 14 Protecting the Commonwealth from Gas Expansion (Gomez)
- 15 Halting the Expansion of Large Gas Pipes (Gomez)
- 16 Protecting the Climate and Ratepayers from Gas Expansion (Gomez)

ALSO IMPORTANT

- 31 Commuter Rail Electrification (Crighton)
- 34 Updating MLP Clean Energy Standards (Gomez)
- 35 Limiting Biomass (Gomez)
- 106 Stemming the Expansion of RNG and Hydrogen (Eldridge)
- 28 Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (Gomez)
- 57 Clean Energy Siting and Permitting, Local Option Amendment (Mark)
- 101 Municipal Permit Timing Safety Valve When Awaiting Response (Comerford)

Oppose

- 88 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)
- 97 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)
- 98 Consumer Rights (Collins)
- 102 Preserving Gas Safety Enhancement Program (O'Connor)
- **122 Continuing Safety Improvements of the Gas Network (Feeney)**

This is important to me because...

Best,
NAME

SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT

To make a follow-up phone call, find their phone numbers [here](#) or [here](#).

Hello, I'm calling for Senator NAME's office.

My name is NAME and I am a constituent living at ADDRESS.

I am calling to ask the Senator to co-sponsor several amendments for the Climate Omnibus bill. Do you need a pen to write them down? I'd like my Senator to co-sponsor the following amendments for climate and environmental justice.

- **PRIORITY**
- **116 Accurately Assessing Community Impacts (DiDomenico)**
- **100 Improving Outdoor Air Quality (Jehlen)**
- **14 Protecting the Commonwealth from Gas Expansion (Gomez)**
- **15 Halting the Expansion of Large Gas Pipes (Gomez)**
- **16 Protecting the Climate and Ratepayers from Gas Expansion (Gomez)**

- **ALSO IMPORTANT**
- 31 Commuter Rail Electrification (Crighton)
- 34 Updating MLP Clean Energy Standards (Gomez)
- 35 Limiting Biomass (Gomez)
- 106 Stemming the Expansion of RNG and Hydrogen (Eldridge)
- 28 Zero Carbon Renovation Fund (Gomez)
- 57 Clean Energy Siting and Permitting, Local Option Amendment (Mark)
- 101 Municipal Permit Timing Safety Valve When Awaiting Response (Comerford)

- **Oppose**
- 88 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)
- 97 Preserving Consumer Energy Choice (O'Connor)
- 98 Consumer Rights (Collins)
- 102 Preserving Gas Safety Enhancement Program (O'Connor)
- 122 Continuing Safety Improvements of the Gas Network (Feeney)
-

Thank you and have a nice day.

Thank you for taking action for climate and environmental justice! Please feel free to email us on how it went.
[You can check here for progress.](#)

In Solidarity,
The Planning Team at Mass Power Forward