

To the Board, Leadership, and Employees of Eversource Energy:

Eversource Energy has repeatedly referred to itself as “a clean energy company.” **Three regrettable recent incidents** have shown how far that is from the truth.

First, Joe Nolan—Eversource’s new CEO—[insisted to RTO Insider](#) that, despite state climate laws to the contrary, the company still plans to renew long-term gas contracts and spend **billions of dollars upgrading gas infrastructure**. Then, reporting by [the Boston Globe](#) and [E&E News](#) brought to light the company’s leadership in a [coalition meant to stymie building electrification](#)—a crucial climate priority. Finally, parents in Cambridge, MA were [surprised to find Eversource-branded pro-fossil-fuel propaganda](#) in their kids’ backpacks.

These are not the actions of a clean energy company.

In response to this publicity, Bill Akley—the President of Eversource’s gas business—insisted “That’s not who we are.” But **can that be said of a company that markets methane gas as a solution to the climate crisis?** Emissions from gas account for 40% of all emissions in the two states where Eversource sells gas, according to the EPA. This may not be totally clear to the average New Englander, given the company’s [misleading advertising](#).

Eversource’s lack of forthrightness on clean energy and climate is not just a benign marketing strategy. It is harmful to our states’ ability to transition to a cleaner, more just economy—a goal that we should all share. **For Eversource to be a true clean energy company, it must pursue meaningful improvements in equity, [climate](#), and [health](#).** Each of these factors is inseparable from the others.

We insist that Eversource Energy participate meaningfully in these efforts. After making \$1 billion in profits for their shareholders last year, Eversource is in position to proactively shift its business model toward clean, combustion-free products. A swift transition will also help Eversource meet its fiduciary duty to shareholders, as the climate crisis heightens the risk of reliance on combustion-based fuels. Below is a list of steps that Eversource Energy must take in both Connecticut and Massachusetts to bring its actions in line with its public relations:

- **Put down the shovel.** It will be impossible for Massachusetts and Connecticut to meet their climate commitments while continuing to expand gas distribution systems. Eversource Energy must recognize this indisputable fact by:
 - Placing an immediate **moratorium on new and expansion gas projects**—including the pipeline to the proposed Killingly power plant in Connecticut—and committing to transparently analyzing every proposed investment in gas infrastructure against **non-emitting alternatives**, as ConEd has proposed to do in New York.
 - **Renewing gas contracts annually**—rather than in multi-year contracts—until plans to transition the gas distribution system to non-combustion thermal delivery are completed.
 - **Discontinuing all rebates and subsidies** that encourage new gas hookups.
 - **Refraining from using ratepayer funds** to pay for membership in trade associations opposing electrification—including the American Gas Association—

and clarifying the source of funding for the pro-fossil-fuel propaganda which Eversource has distributed to schoolchildren.¹

- **Redirecting Gas System Enhancement Plan investments** toward wiser long-term choices, including non-pipe alternatives and geothermal micro-districts.
- **Join our team.** Work with us to draft and send a joint letter to the Governors' offices in Connecticut and Massachusetts expressing support for laws that allow gas utilities to deliver non-combustion thermal energy in a just and equitable way. Support the redefinition of gas companies as thermal energy companies under the law.
- **Pivot toward electrification.** Massachusetts' [Clean Energy and Climate Plan](#) calls for electrification of one million homes and up to 400 million square feet of commercial real estate by 2030. The Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change estimates that heat pumps must displace 11% of residential thermal load by 2030 to meet the state's climate commitments.
 - Integrate **ambitious heat pump installation targets** into the term sheets of the 2022-2024 three-year energy efficiency plans in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Programs should seek to electrify 4% of homes and businesses annually by 2024.
 - Support the development and speedy promulgation of a **strong net-zero stretch code** through Eversource's participation in trade groups like Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, and NAIOP.
- **Involve labor.** It is imperative that workers in Connecticut and Massachusetts have a say in the clean energy transition. We ask that Eversource Energy carry out its geothermal micro-district demonstration projects using organized labor, and commit to supporting two just transition bills in Massachusetts:
 - Act relative to a just transition to clean energy ([House](#) / [Senate](#))
 - Act relative to clean energy workforce standards and accountability ([House](#) / [Senate](#))
- **Share information.** Eversource Energy is a public utility. States and municipalities are continuously planning for the clean energy transition, and it is incumbent upon Eversource to participate in these public efforts by publicly sharing consumption and demand data that is appropriately aggregated to protect ratepayer privacy, as well as data regarding leak-prone infrastructure.
- **Plan for transition.** Publicly release Eversource's business plan for transitioning to an emissions-free company aligned with a 1.5 degree pathway, including key steps and timing. If no such plan exists, create one and then share it.

That Eversource is not a clean energy company today does not mean that it cannot be one in the future. We look forward to the day when Eversource is entirely combustion- and emissions-free, and we are committed to helping the company get there.

¹ Gas utilities are prohibited from using ratepayer dollars for advertising under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164, §33A.

We ask that Eversource leadership agree to meet with us within two weeks to discuss these action steps. Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

350 Massachusetts	Connecticut League of Conservation Voters	Living the Change Berkshires
350 Massachusetts: Berkshire Node	Conservation Law Foundation	Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group
350 Massachusetts: Central Mass	CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs	Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Acadia Center	Dorchester Climate Justice	Mothers Out Front Massachusetts
Berkshire Environmental Action Team	Eastern Connecticut Green Action	No Ashland Pipeline
Boston Catholic Climate Movement	Elders Climate Action: Massachusetts	No Fracked Gas in Mass
Canton Residents for a Sustainable Equitable Future	Eversource Resistance and Transition Campaign	No Sharon Gas Pipeline Clean Energy Now!
Cape Downwinders	Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station (FRRACS)	Pipeline Awareness Network for the Northeast
Clean Water Action, Connecticut	Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility	Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts
Climate Action Now: Western Massachusetts	Green Sanctuary: Climate Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading	Resist the Pipeline
Climate Code Blue		RESTORE: The North Woods
Climate Finance Action		Sheffield Saves
Climate Reality Project	Greenvest	Sierra Club Connecticut
Climate Reality Project: Massachusetts South Coast	HealthLink	Sierra Club Massachusetts
	HEET	Springfield Climate Justice Coalition
Climate Reality Project: Southern Connecticut	Indivisible Pittsfield	Sunrise Connecticut
Community Action Works	Jewish Climate Action Network	Sunwealth Power, Inc.
Connecticut Citizen Action Group	Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition	

cc: Chair Matthew Nelson, Department of Public Utilities
Commissioner Robert Hayden, Department of Public Utilities
Commissioner Cecile M. Fraser, Department of Public Utilities
Secretary Kathleen A. Theoharides, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental
Affairs
Commissioner Patrick Woodcock, Department of Energy Resources
Attorney General Maura Healey
Chief Executive Officer Stephen Pike, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center