

## GSC Lobby Letter – May 2020

As we observe the impacts of the current covid-19 pandemic, it is clear that our government at every level is unprepared for current threats to our well-being. I believe that climate change is another such threat on the near horizon. In addition to causing more violent storms and the rise of sea level, climate change is expected to contribute to more diseases, from Lyme disease to new viruses, as animals move to new locations and come newly into contact with people.

Both the Governor and Senate Roadmaps have outlined policies that set goals and call for action on climate change, yet they are not specific about how we are going to reach those goals. There are several bills in the House that would be particularly effective for addressing climate change. The Senate could include them in its roadmap:

- **Greenworks (H.3997)** borrows about \$100 million per year over 10 years and uses the money to fund resiliency projects around the state. Voting for this will prepare communities that will experience the brunt of global warming impacts.
- **Carbon Pricing and Rebates (H.2810)** establishes a market mechanism that puts a price on the cost of pollution from fossil fuels, gives businesses and people the incentive to invest in renewable energy without subsidies, creates jobs in new industries, and gives money back to low- and middle-income residents to counter price increases. Please push for a floor vote or make this part of larger legislation.
- **Environmental Justice (H.4264)** requires the state to consider health impacts in deciding whether to approve or prohibit polluting projects. We must protect our vulnerable citizens.
- **Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)**, proposed by Governor Baker, but not addressed yet by the House or the Senate, creates a multi-state cap and trade system for transportation to generate money for upgrading public transportation and to increase renewables in transportation. I ask you to support its passage.

In addition, there are several bills that set more realistic targets for us to thwart the worst effects of climate change:

- **Roadmap bill (H.3983)** sets stricter targets for reducing emissions to reach net neutrality by 2050, including a just transition for all people. 2050 is not soon enough, but this bill provides a starting point for action. Current timetables will not move us quickly toward sustainability.
- **100% Renewables (H.2836)** increases renewable energy portfolio standards timetable to 100% by 2035, and funds training for transition to renewable jobs. Current timetables will not move us quickly enough toward sustainability, so I support this measure.

I encourage you to support passage these pieces of legislation during this session.

Personally, I will be doing everything that I can to make political candidates' positions and actions toward climate change mitigation a primary factor in my decision (and my colleagues' decisions) at the polls this November.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of taking strong climate action.