



2023 End-of-Winter Newsletter

March 14, 2023

Climate Program

We are Environmental Justice Advocates



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The issue: Mass DEP has consistently ignored state law which requires that individual and cumulative health effects of proposed energy facilities be taken into account when issuing permits.

The impact: Massachusetts *continues* to site hazardous waste facilities in low income and minority communities already burdened by polluting industries.

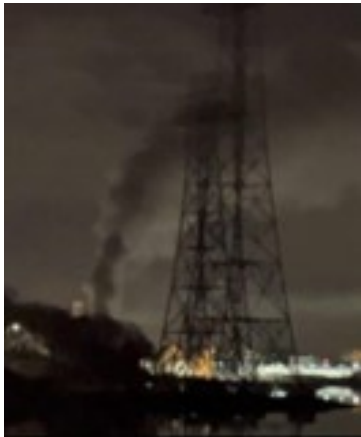
The action: We have called on Governor Healey to enforce the law and help to reverse this legacy in [this article in Commonwealth Magazine](#).

We are Clean Energy Advocates

Green hydrogen for heating buildings? No thanks!
GBPSR contributed to a new report for Gas Transition Allies about the negative impact using green hydrogen to



heat homes would have on the electric grid. [Read the report here.](#)



We are Health Advocates

GBPSR has called for an immediate and comprehensive investigation of the public health and safety consequences of the February 16th chemical explosion at the Clean Harbors facility in Braintree.

Read the letters here: [Letter to Braintree Town Council](#)
[Letter to Braintree Town Councilor Elizabeth Maglio](#)

Greater Boston PSR's 2023 Priorities



Better Buildings: We will advocate for all-electric or net-zero carbon buildings in Boston and in the Commonwealth.

- This year we have offered to help towns and cities opt-in to the Specialized code by providing health benefits information of all-electric, low carbon buildings.
- We have advocated for the update of the Boston zoning code for building 20,000 square feet and larger to be net-zero.
- We are taking part in the BERDO 2.0 regulations-making process.

Environmental Justice: We will advocate for a just transition away from fossil fuels. We:

- Oppose the blending of hydrogen and RNG in distribution pipes because it increases GHG emissions and air pollution.
- Promote the new report that evaluates the negative impact of blending green hydrogen with methane
- Advocate for environmental communities whose



- health is harmed by energy expansion like the Peabody Peaker, Weymouth Compressor and Eversource substation in East Boston
- Oppose gas pipeline expansion projects like Longmeadow because they harm environmental justice communities, will prevent the Commonwealth from attaining its greenhouse gas targets, and are bad for health

Education about Health Impacts:

- See our op-eds and articles about the negative health impacts of [air pollution](#) and [gas stoves](#).
- Visit our new web pages on [hydrogen](#), [gas stoves](#), and [biomass](#)
- We welcome our two new student Climate Ambassadors: Tristan Furnary and Eliana Aleksandra
- Please join us in planning our fall webinar series **on the nuclear and climate crises**

Nuclear Program

We are Committed to Nuclear Disarmament

History

In the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, our federal government committed to multilateral nuclear disarmament with a goal of a world without nuclear weapons. This was reaffirmed in [January of 2021](#).



Destabilization Caused by the Ukraine War

Since the invasion of Ukraine a year ago, the conditions for these negotiations have become much more challenging. However, the threats to life on earth from the use of nuclear weapons are clearer than ever, and it is important to remember that after past nuclear crises, like the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis and the 1983 Euro Missile Crisis, rapid progress was made to decrease the danger of nuclear war.

Back from the Brink Campaign

If the world survives this current conflict, we need to make sure we are never in this position again.

To this end, Rep McGovern (MA-2) has introduced [H. Res 77](#), which endorses the platform of our Back from the Brink campaign to make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of US national security policy and for the US to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war. The resolution also has the support of Rep Neil (MA-1).

Here's how you can help:

- Urge your U.S. House Representative to show leadership on Nuclear Weapons by cosponsoring H. Res. 77. Here's a simple [form](#) to fill out which will do just that.
- Write to Senators Markey and Warren asking them to introduce a companion resolution in the US Senate.
- Write and submit a letter to the editor (LTE) to your community newspapers, bringing attention to the issue and to the importance of H. Res. 77 as a vehicle for building congressional leadership for nuclear disarmament.. [Here are some LTE talking points.](#)

We will also have a similar Back from the Brink resolution in the Massachusetts state legislature, hopefully within the next few weeks.

We have been working to plan a Dialogue Night with our friends at the Ikeda Center to encourage more youth engagement in nuclear war prevention. Stay tuned for the date and details.



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