

# NEW ENGLAND COALITION FOR **AFFORDABLE ENERGY**

## Media Statement

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### MA SJC Decision Narrows Options for Affordable Energy

**Boston, MA – 8/17/2016-** Today’s decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to prohibit the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities from approving long-term contracts by electric utilities for natural gas capacity is a setback for efforts to make energy in New England more affordable and reliable. It narrows the options available to reduce energy costs and improve reliability of service. While disappointing, it is not surprising given the deregulation of the electricity generation market nearly twenty years ago.

However, it does not resolve underlying concerns about the region’s ability to cost-effectively meet future needs, which we believe requires an integrated approach using both renewable resources and natural gas generation. We urge policymakers to take a broader, more integrated look at the role of renewables – solar, wind and hydro – and natural gas. A recent report from the National Bureau for Economic Research points out that “renewables and fast-reacting fossil technologies appear highly complementary and ... Should be jointly installed to meet the goals of cutting emissions and ensuring a stable supply.” That integration deserves further consideration.

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The Coalition’s mission is to advocate for the expansion of energy infrastructure to facilitate lower energy costs, protect jobs and grow the economy. Coalition members represent thousands of employers in the region that depend on affordable and reliable energy to maintain competitiveness.

Members include: Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Associated Industries of Vermont, Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire, Connecticut Business & Industry Association, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts, Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts, International Council of Shopping Centers, Laborers New England Region Organizing Fund, Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Massachusetts Food Association, Massachusetts Restaurant Association, NAIOP Massachusetts, National Federation of Independent Business (CT, MA, NH, ME, RI, VT Chapters), New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association, Norfolk Central Labor Council, Quincy & South Shore Building Trades Council, Retailers Association of Massachusetts, Rhode Island Business Coalition, The Energy Council of Rhode Island, Utility Workers Union Local 369, Utility Workers Union Region 1

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