

# BECCA RAUSCH

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## **SENATE PASSES BIPARTISAN CLIMATE CHANGE PACKAGE**

*The next generation policy package includes components from Senator Becca Rausch*

Boston, MA – The Massachusetts State Senate on Thursday passed a robust climate package to significantly advance the Commonwealth’s approach to combating the global warming, charting one of the most aggressive environmental protection action plans in the country.

An Act Setting Next Generation Climate Policy and two companion bills — one dealing with electrifying fleets and another updating energy efficiency standards for appliances — passed with broad bipartisan support, by a vote of 35-2. The innovative, forward-thinking components in this next generation climate package include the creation of the Climate Policy Commission, concrete actions to help get the Commonwealth to net-zero by 2050, conversion to a zero-emissions MBTA bus fleet by 2040, and the nation’s first ever statewide database of energy usage of existing large buildings. The database and related measures concerning emissions from large buildings arose from a bill Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham) filed in January 2019, which was included in the next generation climate package and is the senator’s first bill to pass the Senate.

Senator Rausch said Thursday, “My constituents made it crystal clear that they wanted swift, meaningful action to combat climate change and push toward sustainability, and that’s exactly what my Senate colleagues and I have delivered. I am proud of my contributions to several of the components in the next generation climate package, including direct action to reduce emissions from existing large buildings and helping Senator Mike Barrett in creating the Climate Policy Commission. The robust debate on the Senate floor also offered another opportunity for me to continue advancing transparency; I secured a roll call on my amendment to bolster the provisions in the base bill about existing large buildings, which was adopted by unanimous, bipartisan vote.

The day before the Senate debated and passed the next generation climate package, Senator Rausch welcomed a group of students from Attleboro High School who came to the State House to lobby legislators on climate change. This week, the Senator will meet with students from King Philip Regional Middle School in Norfolk to participate in a Climate

Change Forum. Those students, also from the Senator's district, sent her letters this fall expressing the importance of taking action on climate change (see attached photo).

"The message my district sent about the urgency of climate change legislation came with particular force from young people. I am thrilled to support and encourage their activism and advocacy. They are the generation that will inherit our planet; they know, as do scientists around the globe, that we must be dauntless in our environmental protection policies; and their voices must be centrally valued in this debate," said Senator Rausch.

The next generation climate legislation package now moves to the House for its consideration.

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*Senator Becca Rausch represents the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District, comprised of Attleboro, Franklin, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley, and Wrentham. Currently in her first term, Senator Rausch serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.*