

October 11, 2021

Via Email: dpu.efiling@mass.gov

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station Boston, MA 02110

Re: Town of Andover Municipal Aggregation Plan; D.P.U. 21-77

Dear Secretary Marini,

I am writing to offer the comments of the Andover Green Advisory Board on the community choice aggregation (CCA) plan filed by the Town of Andover with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). The plan is identified as Andover Community Power or ACP.

Andover Green Advisory Board (AGAB) is a Town-appointed board of volunteer residents established to provide on-going support and advice regarding matters of sustainability to various town boards and departments in Andover. Through outreach, technical assistance, research and advocacy, AGAB works to promote reduced energy usage, increased energy efficiency and meeting energy needs with renewable resources.

Specifically, AGAB led efforts to develop a solar by-law, provided input on the annual Capital Improvement Plan, provided input on the sustainability aspects of new school building designs and other development projects in town, and worked with Andover's Sustainability Coordinator to further her efforts in town.

Regarding ACP, AGAB started actively promoting it as early as February 2019 and held multiple meetings to develop it from concept all the way to the filing with DPU. An AGAB member developed an innovative tool that allows residents to enter personalized data and compare benefits of programs like ACP across comparable communities. Here is the link to the tool: <https://www.andovercca.org/?page=explore>. Andover Community Power was unanimously approved at our Andover Town Meeting on September 12, 2020.

ACP is one of the most effective tools Andover can use to reduce its carbon footprint. As explained in the CCA plan, Andover intends to provide more renewable energy than our residents are currently receiving from National Grid's Basic Service. As a result, the plan will reduce our carbon emissions and encourage the development of new renewable energy projects in New England. This is critical to addressing the climate crisis.

After approval at Town Meeting, the Town has worked diligently to prepare a plan for ACP that meets DPU requirements and closely resembles the plans approved for nearby communities such as Arlington, Lincoln, Lexington, Newton and Natick.

We urge you to approve the plan expeditiously so Andover can bring this important environmental program to its residents.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Latva-Kokko
Chair, Andover Green Advisory Board
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cc: Stephanie Mealey, Hearing Officer, stephanie.mealey@mass.gov
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