

BICEP Members:

Adobe
Akamai Technologies
Annie's Inc
Aspen Skiing Company
Autodesk
Aveda
B Lab
Ben & Jerry's
Burton Snowboards
Clif Bar & Company
Danone North America
Dignity Health
eBay Inc.
Eileen Fisher
Etsy
Fetzer Vineyards
Gap Inc.
General Mills, Inc.
Hackensack Meridian Health
Happy Family Brands
IKEA
Impossible Foods
Indigo Agriculture
JLL
Kaiser Permanente
KB Home
The Kellogg Company
L'Oreal USA
L Brands
Levi Strauss & Co.
LinkedIn
Lyft
Mars Incorporated
Microsoft
Nature's Path Foods
Nestle
New Belgium Brewing
Nike, Inc.
The North Face
Outdoor Industry Association
Owens Corning
Patagonia, Inc.
Portland Trail Blazers
REI
Salesforce
Schneider Electric
Seventh Generation
SFO
Sierra Nevada Brewing
Squaw Valley
Starbucks
Stonyfield Farm
Symantec Corporation
Timberland
Unilever
Vail Resorts
VF Corporation
Vulcan, Inc.
Worthington Industries

Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

July 16, 2020

Dear Members of the Massachusetts General Court:

I am writing today on behalf of the Ceres BICEP ([Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy](#)) Network – a coalition of more than 59 major employers and large electricity customers across the United States, including many with significant operations and facilities in Massachusetts – to ask for your support for [H.4264](#) - An Act Relative to Environmental Justice in the Commonwealth.

The profound connections between environmental health and human health illustrated in a recent [analysis](#) from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health makes clear that a just and sustainable future cannot exist without putting an end to the systemic racism and inequality that exists in our nation. Due to a lack of policy protections and stakeholder engagement, communities of color are disproportionately exposed to harmful particulate matter emissions from the transportation and electric power sectors. The increased mortality rate of Black Americans infected with the COVID-19 virus is a tragic testament to the negative health impacts of this heightened exposure. If lawmakers and advocates do not work together to address the deep inequalities and environmental burdens that continue to harm Environmental Justice communities across the commonwealth, the most vulnerable will continue to suffer disproportionately.

H.4264 works to remedy the current lack of policy protections and stakeholder engagement through three main provisions:

1. Codifying a definition of "Environmental Justice (EJ) community" in state law that includes race, income, and English language proficiency;
2. Enhancing reviews from projects proposed in EJ communities so that they include consideration of potential public health impacts and long-term harms; and
3. Ensuring that residents have reasonable access and information to meaningfully participate in public processes concerning projects in their neighborhoods.

As Massachusetts develops policy pathways to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, Environmental Justice communities must have a seat at the table. We ask that you prioritize the inclusion of provisions that address existing inequities and support Environmental Justice communities in any climate legislation adopted by the General Court. Concurrently passing H. 4264 with H.3983 - An Act to Create a 2050 Roadmap to a Clean and Thriving Commonwealth, which this Network also supports¹ is an actionable way to accomplish this goal this session.

¹ Ceres. "Major investors and companies urge Massachusetts to commit to a net-zero carbon economy."
<https://www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/leading-investors-and-companies-urge-massachusetts-commit-zero-carbon>



Ceres

Sustainability is the bottom line.

The current challenges facing our nation are an opportunity to build back a better, more resilient and equitable economy. If the commonwealth is to continue its national leadership on climate action, its policy making process must include stakeholders from our Environmental Justice communities.

Sincerely,

Anne L. Kelly
Vice President of Government Relations, Ceres
99 Chauncy Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02111
kelly@ceres.org
www.ceres.org/bicep

The [Ceres BICEP Network](http://www.ceres.org/BICEP) comprises influential companies advocating for stronger climate and clean energy policies at the state and federal level in the U.S. As powerful champions of the accelerated transition to a low-carbon economy, Ceres BICEP Network members have weighed in when it has mattered most. For more information on the Ceres BICEP Network, visit www.ceres.org/BICEP.

*BICEP Network members in bold have operations in Massachusetts.