



**Massachusetts Sierra Club**  
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Dear Shrewsbury Town Meeting Members:

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club has been actively supporting efforts to curb the expansion of non-renewable fossil fuel usage at the state and local levels. Such efforts are part of a campaign to ultimately achieve a carbon-free electric sector by 2030.

**The Massachusetts Sierra Club strongly OPPOSES Article 5.**

While supporting the overall goal of peak demand reduction, the Massachusetts Sierra club opposes the use of fossil fuels (e.g. Fracked Natural Gas) as the solution and instead advocates for renewable energy with energy storage as the solution (e.g. Solar paired with a Utility-Level Battery System).

The close interconnection between our current energy system and the emerging climate crisis demonstrates that energy is not only the key problem we need to solve; it is also the solution.

Funds proposed to be spent on new fossil fuel infrastructure could instead be spent on the renewable energy future that we need to move toward expeditiously. This new energy future will serve us in many ways: It will help stave off the worse impacts of climate change; it will help our MA economy; and it will give us a future free of the price volatility of fossil fuels. It is also important that we decrease our dependence on natural gas, currently at 65 percent. Taking dollars away from renewables and energy storage will lock us into exporting our energy dollars. Of the \$22 billion we spend on energy in MA, \$18 billion leaves the Commonwealth. We need to spend that money here, on energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewables, and fixing the old, leaking pipelines we already have (which lose three percent of our present supply).

This is the time to move quickly toward a new, renewable energy future, not spend funds on the old way - the volatile, toxic, expensive, monopolistic, fossilized way.

The opportunity to reduce peak demand and associated energy costs to the town of Shrewsbury can be met with alternatives that pair renewable energy with energy storage. Energy storage has the ability to unlock the full potential of clean, renewable energy resources, while reducing ratepayer costs and emissions. Moving towards renewable energy will continue Massachusetts' leadership in developing and adopting innovative clean energy technologies and policies that ensure we have a clean, affordable, and resilient energy future.

**We urge you to VOTE AGAINST Article 5.**

Respectfully,

Emily Norton,  
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