

**Governor Maura Healey**  
**Testimony for Friday, October 20, 2023**

Good afternoon, Senator Warren and Senator Markey. It is a pleasure to be with you here in the historic and vibrant City of Lowell. I thank you for holding this committee hearing in our shared home state of Massachusetts, and I welcome this opportunity to testify about the critical importance of federal funding to our state's goals and future.

Massachusetts is a state of firsts: the first state constitution, public school, library, and park; we built the first lighthouse, railroad, and subway, and here in Lowell one of the first great centers of industry. We were the first to make healthcare universal and the first to say love is love, equally for all.

I, along with Lt. Governor **Kim Driscoll**, and our entire Administration see this legacy as our obligation to lead today – in protecting the rights and wellbeing of our people and fearlessly tackling the biggest challenges our nation and world are facing.

Since taking office in January, we have **led the fight on climate change.**

We appointed the nation's first cabinet-level Climate Chief and the state's first Undersecretary for Environmental Justice & Equity.

We launched the nation's first state Climate Bank dedicated to affordable housing.

We extended our clean energy lead and issued the largest RFP for offshore wind energy in New England's history.

We banned state purchase of single-use plastics, and launched the strongest biodiversity conversation program in the nation.

**We also have led the fight to lower costs for families, seniors, and businesses.**

Last month we signed into law the most generous, universal child and dependent tax credit in America.

And this week we filed the Affordable Homes Act, which would be the biggest investment in housing affordability in our state's history.

**We have led on education.**

Our first budget funded permanent free school meals, breakfast and lunch, for all public school students; and free community college for all students 25 and older.

We have rallied to advance equitable access to higher education in the wake of a misguided Supreme Court decision on college admissions.

We have defended reproductive rights and safety for our LGBTQ youth.

We are leading, but the challenges we face are generational in consequence and global in scale.

That's why your leadership in Congress, in partnership with the Biden-Harris Administration, has been so inspiring and critical to our efforts.

You have enacted some of the most ambitious investments in America's history, stamping this legislation with Massachusetts values, from Senator Warren's fight to lower prescription drug costs to Senator Markey's pioneering climate bank vision.

The intent of these investments, and the requirements for states to secure them, are closely aligned with our vision, our policies, and our work here in Massachusetts. And our partnership with the federal government has the potential to make the deepest impact and set the highest standards for our country's progress.

**Federal infrastructure funding** will not only help Massachusetts make long-overdue repairs to our roads, rails, and bridges; it will allow us to create good, accessible jobs, and strengthen community and coastal resilience.

That's why our applications for Cape Cod Bridge funding, and the Allston Multi-Modal Project, include commitments to advance the legislation's goals of high labor standards and pathways into good, middle-class careers for women and workers of color.

**Federal clean energy funding**, through the **Inflation Reduction Act**, will not only help us achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2050, it will help us create green jobs, affordable housing, and environmental justice in our communities.

We are using all of our planning resources, inside and outside government, to match funding opportunities with our decarbonization goals. That includes our new Community Climate Bank, which will finance the decarbonization of our building sector while expanding affordable housing for our people.

Yesterday we announced our application for \$250 million in clean energy "Solar for All" investments for up to **78,500 affordable homes** from the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the largest emissions reduction initiative in U.S. history.

In addition: **Federal funding for advanced manufacturing**, through the CHIPS Act and more, will allow Massachusetts to not only lengthen our lead, but broaden access to good innovation economy jobs.

We are working with industry to expand workforce development pathways, starting with historic investments in STEM education in our schools.

Already, we won the Department of Defense competition under the CHIPS Act to host the **Northeast Microelectronics Hub**, with plans for workforce training in advanced manufacturing.

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And, we have been named an Investor Catalyst Hub for **ARPA-H**, the National Institute of Health's medical innovation program for transforming health care – in part because of our proven commitment to health equity.

From the first days of our Administration, competing for and winning federal funding has been one of our highest priorities.

We established a Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office, under Director Quentin Palfrey, to guide this work across our Administration and rally our partners in local government, business, academia, and labor.

We are getting results, and we have the opportunity to do much more.

What federal funding means for Massachusetts is an economy that brings opportunity to all our residents, and solutions to our nation and our world's toughest challenges.

I thank you once again for the opportunity to testify and look forward to continuing the conversation.

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