



February 13, 2014

Delivered via e-mail to [letter@globe.com](mailto:letter@globe.com)

To the Editor,

This letter is response to the February 12th article, "Solar use will push energy costs up in Massachusetts." It is misleading to focus only on the cost of solar policies, without considering their benefits and examining the cost of maintaining the status quo.

Last fall's 3.5 cent electricity rate increase, driven primarily by the region's overreliance on natural gas, is already costing customers an additional \$22.75 a month. Assuming that increase holds, Massachusetts electricity users will pay an additional \$34 billion over the next two decades. Solar, on the other hand, will mitigate the impact of rate increases because it has fixed long-term capital costs and no fuel costs. For example, the Cambridge Housing Authority's will avoid \$20,000 of those electricity bill increases this year because of the solar panels we've installed on several of their affordable housing developments.

Price suppression is another way solar will save all electricity users money. Last summer's multiple heat waves saw wholesale electricity prices in the Boston region rise to \$1.00 per kWh—more than 20 times the normal price. The Governor's plan to develop 1600 MW of solar will moderate these dramatic prices spikes because it will offset almost 90% of the predicted increase in Massachusetts' peak summer electricity load out to 2020. The net effect will be electricity prices that are lower than they would otherwise have been.

Investing in solar will cost money. But continuing to rely on natural gas, and failing to diversify our energy resources with more solar and other renewable energy, will cost electricity users much more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DeWitt Jones".

DeWitt Jones, Executive Vice President  
Boston Community Capital

**Charles Clark**  
Chair of the Board

**Elyse D Cherry**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Boston Community Capital

**DeWitt Jones**  
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Boston Community Managed Assets  
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