

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 873**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Steven Owens*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to making methane accounting truthful helps.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                      | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                        | DATE ADDED:      |
|----------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Steven Owens</i>        | <i>29th Middlesex</i>                    | <i>1/20/2023</i> |
| <i>Joanne M. Comerford</i> | <i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i> | <i>2/23/2023</i> |
| <i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i> | <i>15th Middlesex</i>                    | <i>3/3/2023</i>  |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 873**

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By Representative Owens of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 873) of Steven Owens, Joanne M. Comerford and Michelle L. Ciccolo relative to carbon dioxide equivalents and factors that impact statewide greenhouse gas emissions. Environment and Natural Resources.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to making methane accounting truthful helps.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 21N of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of “Carbon dioxide equivalent”  
3 in lines 17 to 21, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

4 “Carbon dioxide equivalent”, the amount of carbon dioxide by weight that would produce  
5 the same global warming impact as a given weight of another greenhouse gas calculated for a  
6 timeframe of 20 years and for a timeframe of 100 years, based on the best available science,  
7 including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

8 SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 21N, as so appearing, is hereby further  
9 amended by striking out the definition of “Statewide greenhouse gas emissions” in lines 92 to 99,  
10 inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

11 “Statewide greenhouse gas emissions”, the total annual emissions of greenhouse gasses in  
12 the commonwealth, including all emissions of greenhouse gasses from the generation of  
13 electricity and the distribution and use of gas delivered to and consumed in the commonwealth,  
14 accounting for electric transmission and distribution line losses, and accounting for losses of gas  
15 in the commonwealth in transmission, storage, distribution, and use by consumers, whether the  
16 electricity is generated or the gas is produced in the commonwealth or imported; provided,  
17 however, that statewide greenhouse gas emissions shall be expressed in tons of carbon dioxide  
18 equivalents and reported for a timeframe of 20 years and a timeframe of 100 years.

19 SECTION 3. Section 2 of said chapter 21N is hereby amended by striking out subsection  
20 (b) and inserting in place thereof the following:-

21 (b) The department shall: (1) consult with the secretary on periodic review and updates of  
22 emission reporting requirements, as necessary; (2) review existing and proposed state, federal  
23 and international greenhouse gas emissions reporting programs and make reasonable efforts to  
24 promote consistency among the programs established pursuant to this chapter and other  
25 programs and to streamline reporting requirements on greenhouse gas emissions sources; and (3)  
26 every 3 years use the best available science, including from the Intergovernmental Panel on  
27 Climate Change, to review and update carbon dioxide equivalents and factors that impact  
28 statewide greenhouse gas emissions, and, retroactive to 1990, adjust the accounting of statewide  
29 greenhouse gas emissions; provided further, that if the results of such update are not consistent  
30 with federal reporting requirements, the department may issue 2 reports.