The Graduate Student Council (GSC) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which represents MIT’s 6,900 graduate students, upholds the consensus in the scientific community that climate change is caused by human activity. The evidence to achieve this consensus has been reported by researchers across many disciplines, around the world, and affirmed by rigorous processes of peer review. Climate change is a matter of growing public concern, and the GSC commends local, state, national, and global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, the GSC strongly supports state measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in all sectors, such as those enumerated in S.2302, An Act to promote a clean energy future.

With the lack of national leadership to address climate change, particularly the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and rollbacks of key environmental regulations, it is incumbent upon state and local governments to take legislative and/or regulatory action to combat climate change. Massachusetts is already a leader for this cause, committing to reductions in GHG emissions 25% below the 1990 baseline emission level by 2020 and at least 80% below the baseline by 2050. However, the Commonwealth is not on track to reach its 2050 target without implementation of additional policies to reduce emissions.

To enable Massachusetts to achieve its emissions reduction goals, the GSC particularly supports provisions in S.2302 that:

- Set 2030 and 2040 emissions limits.
- Require the adoption of market-based compliance mechanisms for the transportation sector, industrial building sector, and residential building sector.
- Direct state agencies to conduct studies evaluating electric vehicle adoption and identifying routes in Massachusetts that are high priorities for public electric vehicle charging station installation.
- Allow state agencies to conduct studies and issue regulations to ensure Massachusetts progresses toward 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

The GSC also believes that governments should financially support education and professional training for workers transitioning from the fossil fuel industry to new industries and that special regulations and investments should be taken to protect marginalized communities that are more vulnerable to the effects of pollution and climate change. Thus, the GSC supports elements in S.2302 that protect these populations and ensure that they equally benefit from the Commonwealth’s clean energy transformation, such as:

- Creating a Clean Energy Workforce Development Fund to increase access to jobs in clean energy sectors.
- Ensuring equitable access to clean energy programs, especially for low-income and environmental justice communities.

Climate change is an urgent problem that all levels of government, the private sector, and individuals must work together to solve. In order for Massachusetts to meet its 2050 emissions reduction target, efforts to address GHG emissions across multiple sectors of the economy must be put in place. The GSC,

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therefore, urges swift passage of legislation to aid the Commonwealth in reaching this emission reduction goal and its transition to a 21st century renewable energy economy, such as S.2302.

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