

Date: March 9, 2022

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Laura Fillmore Evans, Chair, Rockport Ad Hoc Water Committee

Subject: Ad Hoc Water Committee Letter of Support for Rockport Municipal Government Resolution for Net Zero Energy by 2040

This letter is to express our strong support for the Resolution to establish consistent, local Net Zero Energy policy in response to climate change. The science is irrefutable, and has been for decades, that water resources are threatened by climate change, both in terms of quality and quantity, as are all our ecosystem services. We therefore have no hesitation in supporting this resolution.

At our March 8, 2022 meeting, the Ad Hoc Water Committee voted unanimously to prepare and submit this letter of support for the Rockport Municipal Government Resolution for Net Zero Energy by 2040.

It is both a moral and public health imperative that we all act immediately to reduce our carbon emissions, with the goal of achieving a Net Zero energy policy as soon as possible. This committee's sector of interest – water – is far from blameless when it comes to the Town's carbon footprint. According to the MassEnergyInsight database, in FY21 Rockport's wastewater treatment plant was the fourth largest user of municipal energy at ten percent and was the largest user of electricity at 24 percent. The water filtration facility was the third largest user of municipal energy at 11 percent. It was the second largest user of heating oil and the third largest user of electricity.

Further, we remain concerned that 2040 is too late for us to reach "Net Zero." It is to our collective disgrace this resolution was not implemented thirty years ago when the science was already clear that climate change was upon us. While full metrics and case studies detailing step-by-step costs/benefit for town-wide implementation are not in place because of decades of our society's collective delay, we see the adoption of this resolution as a necessary and positive step forward for the Town of Rockport.