

ROCKPORT BOARD OF HEALTH

March 31, 2022

Chairman Campbell:
Rockport Board of Selectmen
34 Broadway
Rockport, MA 01966

Dear Chairman Campbell:

Last evening, the Board of Health voted unanimously to support the Rockport Municipal Government Resolution for Net Zero Energy by 2040. We agree that global warming and climate change are the result of human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, and we feel that the town should take the actions proposed in this resolution to gradually decrease the town's carbon emissions.

Global warming and associated climate change have the potential to adversely affect the health of the residents of Rockport. Among these effects are the worsening of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, an increase in tick and mosquito borne illnesses, and a worsening of the severity of illness from environmental allergens. Extreme weather events are likely to become more common and more severe and to result in more injuries and other adverse health effects. The warming of the oceans will impact the fishing and other local industries. These changes will disproportionately affect the elderly, the chronically ill, the poor and other especially vulnerable residents.

For these reasons, the Board of Health supports this resolution as written and we encourage the broader town government to do so as well

Sincerely,

Ronald Newman, MD, Chair

Rockport Board of Health