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NEPGA RESPONSE TO MASSACHUSETTS STATE OF THE STATE

Boston, MA: *The following is a statement from Dan Dolan, president of the New England Power Generators Association, on the key issues associated with Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's hydropower proposal:*

"Governor Baker is wrong to center this state's long-term energy future – potentially our most important economic policy decision – on purchasing power from Hydro-Quebec. Subsidizing an overdependence on one foreign government-owned source of electricity will lead to lost jobs and soaring energy bills for decades to come.

"First, Hydro-Quebec is *not* needed to help our state energy suppliers meet energy production carbon targets. Massachusetts has seen its carbon emissions from energy production drop dramatically thanks to efficiency gains at power plants, investments in new technologies and the electricity market responding to sharply lower natural gas prices. In fact, power plants have reduced carbon emissions 51% since 1990, orders of magnitude greater than any other sector of the economy.

"Second, power plants in Massachusetts provide more than 2,000 well-paying, highly skilled jobs, and \$100 million in tax dollars for cities and towns around the state. Thousands of local vendors are used by these plants for daily operations, with over \$220 million infused into the local economy as a result. **We have nearly 7,000 megawatts of new power generation capability competing to come online now – with New England workers, paying taxes in New England communities.**

"After a decade of trying, Hydro-Quebec still has no path through neighboring New Hampshire to run its transmission line and there are no indications that approval is coming any time soon.

"Finally: Hydro-Quebec is far too expensive. It could cost Massachusetts ratepayers an extra \$777 million per year, a huge burden for homeowners, businesses and municipalities to bear, and a cost increase that could potentially drive away businesses looking to move to our state.

"Hydro-Quebec costs too much – in jobs, in time, in ratepayer dollars."

NEPGA's mission is to support competitive wholesale electricity markets in New England. We believe that open markets guided by stable public policies are the best means to provide reliable and competitively-priced electricity for consumers. A sensible, market-based approach furthers economic development, jobs and balanced environmental policy for the region.

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