



**Keynote Remarks from MA Governor Maura Healey
and two panels:
“Which Resources Count for New England?” and “How Do We Connect Them?”**

Friday, September 19, 2025
Biographies of Speakers & Moderator



Governor Maura Healey was elected the 73rd Governor of Massachusetts in 2022, becoming the state’s first woman and first openly LGBTQ person to hold this position. On her first day in office, she appointed the nation’s first cabinet-level Climate Chief and created the Office of Climate Innovation & Resilience to coordinate policies across all of state government to address the climate crisis. She has also prioritized education and workforce development with free school meals for K-12 students, cost-free community college for Massachusetts residents and career apprenticeships accessible to more students and workers. he filed and signed the \$5 billion Affordable Homes Act, the state’s largest ever housing investment, to create tens of thousands of homes and lower costs; and the \$4 billion Mass Leads Act, to invest in Massachusetts businesses, create good jobs, and keep the state’s innovation economy the best in the world.

Governor Healey previously served two terms as Massachusetts Attorney General. In her role as the People’s Lawyer, she took on difficult issues impacting Massachusetts residents, including the opioid epidemic, the climate crisis, escalating health care costs, and student loan debt. Earlier in her career, Healey was a litigation partner at an international law firm.

Governor Healey attended Harvard, where she captained the basketball team, and then spent two years as a 5’4” starting point guard on a professional basketball team in Austria. She holds a JD from Northeastern University School of Law.



Alicia Barton is the Chief Executive Officer of Vineyard Offshore, a leading offshore wind developer with a portfolio of more than 6 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind projects in North America.

Prior to joining Vineyard Offshore, Alicia was the CEO of FirstLight, a leading clean power producer, developer, and energy storage company. Her past public service included serving as the President and CEO of the New York Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and previously as CEO of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), where she helped to lead both New York’s and Massachusetts’ efforts to advance nation-leading climate and clean energy strategies. Alicia’s prior private sector experience includes serving as Co-Chair of the Energy and Cleantech Practice at Foley Hoag LLP, and as Chief of Operations of the Global Utility business unit at SunEdison.

Alicia received an undergraduate degree in natural resources from Ohio State and a JD from Boston College Law School.



Nathan Phelps is Managing Director of Vote Solar's Regulatory Advocacy Hub (the "Hub"). The Hub is dedicated to advancing regulatory excellence and inclusion in venues across the country in support of Vote Solar's mission to realize a 100% clean energy future through a solutions-driven, people-first approach. Within Vote Solar, the Hub applies regulatory knowledge to ensure that key learnings, technical expertise, and innovative research are effectively and consistently deployed across our five regional teams. Externally, the Hub is a place for communities, non-profits, and other organizations to learn about regulatory issues and access tools to mount their own interventions, helping to advance a broad and inclusive clean energy agenda before public utility commissions and legislatures across the country.

Prior to joining Vote Solar, Nathan was a Senior Economist at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities with a primary focus on renewable energy and distributed generation. Before joining the MA DPU, Nathan worked at the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust.

Nathan earned a masters from Tufts in urban and environmental policy and planning, and a BA in environmental science and politics from Willamette.



Paul Hibbard is a principal in Analysis Group's Boston office, where he provides expert consulting on economics, strategy, regulation, and policy in the electric and natural gas industries. He is a former chairman of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and has over ten years of service working for the DPU and Department of Environmental Protection.

Paul has provided extensive testimony as an expert witness in litigation and regulatory settings, and on resource planning, competitive electricity markets, greenhouse gas regulations, and transmission pricing in hearings before committees of the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and California legislatures, the US House of Representatives, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and state and regional planning councils.

Paul holds an M.S. in energy and resources from UC Berkeley, and a B.S. in physics from UMass Amherst.



Armond Cohen is the Founder and Executive Director of Clean Air Task Force, a 135-person global environmental organization working to manage climate change by catalyzing the advancement of low-emissions energy and other climate-protecting solutions, which he has led since its formation in 1996.

Previously, Armond served as director of Conservation Law Foundation's energy program, helping drive major investments in energy efficiency by New England utilities. He began his career as a clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit.

Armond writes, speaks, and testifies frequently on energy systems and climate. He is a board member of the California Foundation on the Economy and the Environment, and the founder of the Nuclear Innovation Alliance on whose board he sits, and a member of the advisory board of Columbia University's Center for Radiological Research and the Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council.

Armond has a JD from Harvard and a BA in history from Brown.



John O'Brien is Chief Executive Officer of JERA Americas, having previously held the role of Chief Operating Officer at the company. John joined JERA Americas in 2021 as head Government and Regulatory Affairs. He came to the organization with extensive executive leadership experience from his roles at National Grid, Exelon, NRG, and Vistra/TXU predecessor company (Energy Future Holdings). He had also served as President, Natural Gas Distribution and Electric Power for AltaGas, U.S., a \$4.2 billion in revenue energy infrastructure business, where he oversaw rates, operations, and billing of five natural gas utilities. John served as a Massachusetts State Senator from 1993 to 1998 for the Second Essex and Middlesex Districts, where he served as the Chairman of the Energy Committee and authored the Electric Utility

Restructuring Act of 1997.

A graduate of Brown with a degree in international relations, John earned his JD at Suffolk Law School.



Michael Judge has served as Undersecretary of Energy since March 2023. Prior to his current role, he served as Vice President for Policy for the Coalition of Community Solar Access (CCSA), managing its Policy Team and leading its policy advocacy at the federal level and across more than 20 states in which the organization's members are active.

Prior to his time at CCSA, Michael spent over 12 years in various roles in Massachusetts state government, including over two years as Director of Electric Power Division at the Department of Public Utilities and four years as Director of the Renewable and Alternative Energy Division at the Department of Energy Resources.

He holds bachelor's degrees in history and geography from UMass Amherst.



Rob Gramlich is Founder and President of Grid Strategies LLC, a Washington DC-based consultancy focused on transmission and power markets for a reliable, affordable, and sustainable power system. He co-founded Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT Coalition), Advancing Modern Powerlines (AMP Coalition), the Macro Grid Initiative, the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition, RENEW Northeast, and the Future Power Markets Forum. Rob and Grid Strategies have appeared recently as experts in national news stories in the Washington Post, Fox Business, New York Times, NPR, C-SPAN, and the Wall Street Journal. Rob was formerly SVP and Interim CEO, American Wind Energy Association, Economic Advisor to FERC Chairman Pat Wood III, and Senior

Economist at PJM Interconnection LLC.

Rob has a BA with honors in economics from Colby College and a Master of Public Policy from UC Berkeley.



Caitlin Marquis is Advanced Energy United's Managing Director overseeing engagement on matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Regional Transmission Organizations. Caitlin oversees a team that participates directly in stakeholder proceedings at ISO-NE, MISO, PJM, and SPP, on behalf of a diverse membership of advanced energy business. Caitlin previously represented Advanced Energy United in the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) stakeholder process. Prior to United, Caitlin supported corporate renewable energy procurement efforts.

Caitlin holds a BA in history of art and architecture from Harvard and an MSc. in environmental change and management from Oxford University.



Digaunto Chatterjee is Senior Vice President of Engineering, at Eversource, where he supports day to day operations of the transmission and distribution system while overseeing the development and engineering of the 5-Year Capital Plan to improve reliability, address near term asset replacements and connect customers. In addition, he oversees the 10- and 20-Year Strategic Transmission and Distribution Grid Modernization Plan to meet the states' clean energy mandates and to address the threats of climate change through resilience investments to mitigate increase in storm costs.

Previously, Digaunto served as Vice President of Investment Strategy at GE Capital, leading Energy and Capacity market analyses to inform investment decisions of over 2 GW of renewables and combined cycle powerplants. Prior to his work at GE Capital, Digaunto led Reliability and Economic Transmission Planning and Resource Adequacy at MISO.

Digaunto earned his undergraduate degree from Nagpur University, India, and his master's in electric power engineering from Rensselaer. He also holds an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).



Janet Gail Besser is a nationally recognized energy policy and regulatory strategy expert, with experience as a regulator, clean energy business association leader, utility executive, developer, consultant, and consumer advocate. She has been moderating the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable since the beginning of 2023. Prior to 2023, she led the Smart Electric Power Alliance's Regulatory and Business Innovation work as vice president. Previously, she was executive vice president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council; VP, Regulatory Strategy and Policy at National Grid; Chair and Commissioner of the MA DPU; and an executive and expert at Analysis Group and Lexecon. She also held senior staff roles at the Massachusetts Energy Office and New Hampshire PUC, was policy director for a national IPP association, and worked for a small hydro developer and low-income consumer advocate.

Janet is the recipient of the 2019 NECA Vanguard Award and the 2014 Northeast Women in Energy and the Environment Achievement Award. She recently chaired the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on the role of net metering in the evolving electricity system. She is the chair of the Power Options Board and serves on the VEIC Board, where she chairs the Impact and Evaluation Committee.

Janet has an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Williams College.



Carol Holahan is a partner in Foley Hoag's Energy & Cleantech practice. She advises large, competitive regional generators and other participants in the wholesale and retail competitive electricity markets on regional policy initiatives, changing environmental regulations, decommissioning and sale of plants, and matters pending before the FERC. In addition to concentrating on traditional fossil fuel generation, Carol's practice includes renewable energy resources such as large solar, storage, and biomass. She has significant experience in the NEPOOL stakeholder process, and with legal challenges to new or existing laws and regulations, environmental permitting, facility siting, and assessment or limitations of liability due to the sale or retirement of generating facilities.

Prior to joining Foley Hoag, Carol was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Dynegy, Inc. Before that, she served as Director of Government Affairs for the NEPGA, representing competitive power producers before state policy makers, regulators, and infrastructure siting boards. She also served as the Director of the Office of Legislative Services in New Hampshire. Carol earned her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Suffolk Law School, and her BS from Georgetown.