

## **New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable Testimonials (December 2023)**

“In 1996, while serving as Commissioner of the then Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources, I convened regular meetings of stakeholders to discuss and debate cutting edge issues in the energy industry. I am delighted with the way that “roundtable” has become a vibrant model for the collaborative sharing of information, ideas, and aspirations. The state and region have been richly rewarded by its success.”

**David O’Connor, O’Connor Energy Consulting** [former MA DOER Commissioner]

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“The Restructuring Roundtable has grown from a small gathering to a critical convening of energy leaders from across New England. It is more important than ever for policymakers and business experts to talk about pressing and emerging issues as we transition our shared grid and confront the urgent threat of climate change. The Roundtable has always been on the cutting edge of this approach. I'm grateful to have an opportunity to learn from experts and tackle the hard challenges our region faces through this invaluable forum.”

**Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs**

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“As we continue to debate and dissect the legacy and promise of restructuring, we can all agree that one of the happiest outcomes of restructuring has been the Roundtable itself. The Roundtable has become so important to our region, as a place to come together for constructive conversation about our visions, goals and the realities of energy sector reform.”

**Commissioner Katie Dykes, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection**

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“I have attended sessions of the Roundtable since the beginning, while I was in industry, in government, and now with ISO New England. The issues in the region have changed over the years, but the Roundtable consistently brings together the right people to discuss the right issues at the right time.”

**Cheryl LaFleur, Chair, Board of Directors, ISO New England** [former FERC Chair and Acting CEO, National Grid]

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“For nearly three decades, the Roundtable has been the go-to place to learn about and discuss the important issues associated with transitions in the region’s critically important electric industry.”

**Dr. Susan Tierney, Senior Advisor, Analysis Group** [former Assistant Secretary Policy US DOE, and MA Secretary for Environmental Affairs and DPU Commissioner]

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“Civility. Cordiality. Humor. Marketplace of ideas. A room full of friends and adversaries gathered to consider issues about which we are all so passionate. An oasis of inspiration and motivation. Not to mention the networking, coffee and muffins.”

**Mary Beth Gentleman, Foley Hoag [retired]**

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“Over nearly three decades, the Roundtable has highlighted some of the region’s thorniest energy issues and ISO New England has been pleased to participate in the Roundtable to discuss our role in finding solutions to those issues. The discussion and debate have always been timely and lively! The Roundtable provides an excellent forum to explore the latest analysis and trends in the energy industry – and it’s a great opportunity to explain ISO New England’s studies and hear from key decision-makers in the region.”

**Gordon van Welie, President and CEO, ISO-New England**

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“The Roundtable empowers us all to chart a bold path forward on the complex electricity market and energy issues that define New England’s future. Guided by the expert curation of Jonathan Raab and Janet Gail Besser, we dissect challenges, explore innovative solutions, and work together toward a smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy landscape. The “who’s who” of attendees makes this an indispensable event for energy geeks like me.”

**Dan Dolan, President, New England Power Generators Association**

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“The Roundtable has been a uniquely valuable forum bringing the most challenging topics we face to the forefront of dialogue. The Roundtable was born at a time of enormous changes in the energy sector in New England, and the coming years will require even more need for the dialogue the Roundtable offers if we are to meet our clean energy, climate and energy justice goals. As an organization deeply committed to achieving a clean energy future that benefits all, through the Roundtable Acadia Center has learned from each other, built relationships with people across the field and offered our views on key issues. Kudos to Jonathan and the team for staying at the table and bringing us all together through the years.”

**Dan Sosland, President, Acadia Center**

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“For almost three decades, the Roundtable has been a unique forum bringing the energy community together to tackle the critical issues of the day. Its durability is a testament to its enduring value to the region.”

**Dr. Jesse Jenkins, Assistant Professor, Princeton**

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“The Roundtable is the premier convening of regional energy conversations in the Northeast. Together, the speakers and participants are tackling the most critical questions we face as a region in our push to decarbonize the electric grid in a way that is affordable, reliable, and equitable. Even the most serious energy work amongst us leaves every conversation having learned something new and having gained better perspective on how we will work together to solve the region’s toughest energy challenges.”

**Alicia Barton, CEO, FirstLight Power** [former CEO, NYSERDA]

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“Over 3 decades the Roundtable has been the regional backbone for vibrant stakeholder debate. Its ability to galvanize the super A-Team of Federal and state leaders, and diverse stakeholders is legendary. Roundtable attendees hear it all and many find it useful, sometimes inspirational. Thank you for your presence during every step of the transition from restructuring to decarbonization. At each Roundtable, many attendees know each other, and others do not, which stimulates a helpful dialectic to promote informed decision making. The Roundtable is needed now more than ever.”

**Richard Levitan, President, Levitan and Associates**

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“Electricity policy *is* energy policy in New England, and so it’s essential to connect with the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable to understand all the latest energy trends and market developments. I have attended the Roundtable for over 25 years and the Roundtable’s value remains singular and reliable. To me there are three overriding benefits. One hears the latest trends in policy, technology, markets and regulation, from experts representing utilities, industry, state and federal regulation, environmental activists, academia and community and consumer groups. Secondly, the networking opportunity is outstanding. You have to be there because everyone else is there. And lastly, the Roundtable website offers a tremendous virtual file cabinet for all the presentations over the last 25-plus years. You can view by topics and presenters and get a real history of the evolution of markets, policies and regulations in the region and U.S.”

**Stephen Leahy, New England-Canada Business Council Energy Committee** [formerly with Northeast Gas Association]

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“The sharing of ideas and knowledge makes us all smarter and that leads to better decision-making in all aspects of managing and improving energy policy, industry and infrastructure in New England.”

**Joyce McMahon, McMahon Communications**

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“I’ve been attending and participating in the Roundtables since the beginning. I’ve also worked around the country and at times, around the world on issues of energy and climate policy, markets, and innovation. The Roundtables are unique in their regular gathering of all interested parties, bearing all perspectives, to listen and learn from each other carefully, thoroughly, deeply, and respectfully, and in these conversations gain deeper understanding of what is working, what may be possible and what is needed to enable progress. I am never disappointed by the topics, the panelists, the facilitation, the quality of discussion and the folk that show up and engage. Thank you for carrying on this great institution.”

**Phil Giudice, Board Chair, FirstLight Power** [former Special Assistant to President Obama for Climate Policy]

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“Many students graduating from educational programs in energy and climate ask me for advice on how to get started. Without fail, the first thing I say is to attend the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable! I tell them how much I have learned immersing myself for over twenty years in the Roundtable's thoughtful and timely panel discussions - and that there's no better opportunity to make new professional connections than during the legendary 30-minute networking break between morning panels. I truly would not be where I am today without the Roundtable.”

**Bradford Swing, Director Energy Policy/Programs, City of Boston**

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“The Roundtable has been core to my career for the entirety. In the early years, I created a successful company based on ideas and lessons discussed at the Roundtables. And my four appearances have been enjoyable career moments.”

**Harvey Michaels, MIT Sloan School and Environmental Solutions Initiative**

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