



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

192nd General Court

Governor Charles D. Baker
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

February 8, 2021

Dear Governor Baker:

We write to you in reference to recent insensitive and offensive comments made by a member of your administration. On January 25, 2021, Undersecretary for Climate Change at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, gave a presentation before the annual meeting of the Vermont Climate Council regarding Massachusetts's efforts to curb carbon emissions.

During this meeting, Undersecretary Ismay noted the momentous strides our Commonwealth has already made in reducing air pollution over the years. He went on to say that the only significant block of polluters left were ordinary, everyday residents of the Commonwealth, what he referred to as, "the person across the street, the senior on fixed income," heating their homes and driving to work. He remarked that it was time to "turn the screws" on them and "break their will, so they stop emitting," and closed by saying, "We have to break your will. Right, I can't even say that publicly."

Let us be perfectly clear: these comments are callous, insensitive, and point to a major, insurmountable disconnect between this appointed member of your administration and the very public he is supposed to be serving. In the midst of this terrible pandemic, with record unemployment plaguing our state and major economic upheaval threatening our very way of life, the last thing this administration should

be doing is “turning the screws” on the “senior on fixed income” and “the person across the street.”

Undersecretary Ismay’s comment that, “I can’t even say that publicly,” clearly point to his own self-awareness of the immoral and indefensible position of his point of view. The general public is lucky to have an opportunity to glean insights into his true feelings on these issues before further harm could be done.

Given this knowledge, Undersecretary Ismay’s position as a public servant is completely untenable and we call for you to immediately dismiss him from service within your administration.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Boldyga
State Representative

Marc Lombardo
State Representative

David DeCoste
State Representative

Peter Durant
State Representative

Donald Berthiaume
State Representative

Joseph McKenna
State Representative

Alyson Sullivan
State Representative

Colleen Garry
State Representative