February 25, 2022

Dear Mayor Fuller,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy and with the support of several climate activists in Newton. My topic is resources needed to adopt and implement the BERDO ordinance in Newton.

The Energy Commission is committed and eager to help the City with the BERDO ordinance in any way we can, and we feel a sense of urgency about this program. We have already taken the first steps. Michael Gevelber analyzed the commercial building stock and has completed a draft analysis of potential costs to affected businesses. We presented this work to members of the Chamber of Commerce, who responded with a thoughtful and informative discussion. Jonathan Klein has taken steps to organize an outreach to leaders in the real estate community.

I have also talked at length with Susan Albright, Deb Crossley, Alicia Bowman and Bill Ferguson about the tasks ahead, the need for a plan of action and a schedule, about coordination and the necessary resources. We all agree that additional resources are needed to assist with the outreach to the business community, to develop and oversee the program, to provide technical support for regulations and, later, to implement BERDO. A closely guided and supervised consultant would be most appropriate.

People will judge our priorities and commitments by the resources we dedicate to them. I therefore urge you to create as soon as possible the BERDO Working Group and to allocate funds to support its work that are proportional to the importance of BERDO. Building on the success of Newton Power Choice, this is currently the most important next policy initiative for Newton regarding our promise to accomplish significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over the next few years-the few years we have left now to substantially move forward on our climate action goals.

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss this further and am happy to arrange for Michael Gevelber to share with you the how the BERDO is being implemented in Boston, and its potential impact in Newton.

Sincerely,



Halina Brown

cc. Susan Albright; Deb Crossly; Bill Ferguson; Members of Newton Citizens Commission on Energy