

Perez, Lori

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**From:** Nancy Donohue <ndonohue@cambridgechamber.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 2:31 PM  
**To:** Siddiqui, Sumbul; City Council  
**Cc:** Huang, Yi-An; City Clerk; Farooq, Iram; Crane, Paula  
**Subject:** Joint Business/Institutional BEUDO letter  
**Attachments:** BEUDO Amendment Requirements.docx; BEUDO questions from 9-15-22.docx; BEUDO April 2022 letter.docx

September 29, 2022

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui  
Cambridge City Councillors  
Cambridge City Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Honorable Mayor Siddiqui and City Councillors,

Thank you for hosting the September 15<sup>th</sup> webinar which provided a platform for the City's residents and business community to learn about major changes to the City's proposed Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO), currently under consideration. While this meeting was an important first step in the discussion - and we welcomed the collegial tone and effort to introduce BEUDO to the community - important far-reaching questions remain outstanding (see attached 9/15/22 questions). Due to time limitations at the forum, fundamental issues of cost, feasibility, equity, legality, and timing, affecting both businesses and the community at large, were not able to be addressed.

For example, the discussion regarding Eversource's involvement and opinion regarding grid capacity, feasibility, and the greening of the grid remain unresolved. We strongly encourage that the City work to have Eversource available for a future public forum and to answer the myriad of questions that remain regarding its involvement and the future capacity of the grid.

In addition, we strongly believe that healthcare facilities, nonprofits, and small-and-mid-sized buildings need and deserve special accommodations/exemptions.

We also remain deeply concerned about the lack of impactful use of carbon credits to achieve and maintain net-zero emissions. These mechanisms — which are supported by science and global net-zero standards — must be included for large institutions and businesses that may be able to meet the accelerated 2035 goal.

Attached you will find a list of eight requirements that our organizations collectively believe must be incorporated into the proposal prior to any City Council action (see attached amendment requirements). The first three requirements have been part of every conversation we have had since the beginning of the BEUDO discussions (see attached 4/22 letter). The remaining five requirements have been developed as a result of months of conversations with property owners and constituents. We urge the council to incorporate all these concepts and by doing so we believe that the ordinance will meet the goals of reducing emissions while recognizing unique circumstances and the limitations of the grid and current technologies.

Cambridge-based institutions, businesses, and property owners are leading the way in sustainable practices and emissions-reduction as they pursue their robust climate goals, which are fully consistent with the goals of BEUDO. We look forward to continuing this dialogue and to working together in support of our shared climate-protection goals.

Sincerely,

**Cambridge Chamber of Commerce**

David P. Maher, President & CEO

Nancy E. Donohue, Director of Government and Community Relations

**Harvard University**

Heather Henriksen, Chief Sustainability Officer

Tom Lucey, Director of Government and Community Relations

**Kendall Square Association**

Beth O'Neill Maloney, Executive Director

B. Kimmerman, Director of Government and Community Relations

**MassBio**

Joe Boncore, CEO

Susan Martin, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Zach Stanley, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer

**MIT**

Sarah Gallop, Co-Director of Government and Community Relations

Joe Higgins, Vice President for Campus Services and Stewardship

Patrick Rowe, Managing Director, Real Estate, MITIMCo

**Harvard Square Business Association**

Denise Jillson, Executive Director

**Central Square Bid**

Ken Barron, Board Chair

Patrick Barrett, Board Member

**East Cambridge Business Association**

Jason Alves, Executive Director