

Staff-Delivered Statement: Fix the Grid Rally
November 1, 2023

South Boston Maritime Park

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Katie Morfill and I am a Regional Director for Senator Ed Markey's Boston Office. I will be delivering a statement on behalf of Senator Markey.

“Hello, everyone. It’s an honor to be invited to speak with such a dedicated group of clean energy advocates and activists, just steps away from the ISO board meeting. Thank you to 350 Mass, Mothers Out Front, and other partner organizations for convening us here today.

Our energy sector is at a critical turning point, as renewable energy is more AFFORDABLE, more RELIABLE, and more IN-DEMAND than ever.

However, our region’s grid operator and market administrator—ISO New England—has stifled and delayed New England’s transition to cheaper and cleaner energy.

Instead of giving New England the green light for its clean energy revolution, ISO-New England has put up roadblocks. It has repeatedly worked to artificially

prop up fossil fuels and prevent lower-cost providers of renewable energy and battery storage from competing on a fair footing.

As a result, ISO-New England has kept dirty, unreliable fossil energy on the grid and cheap clean energy off. And—as we see winter after winter—a grid over-reliant on natural gas fails to meet consumers' needs, leading to higher electricity costs and detrimental capacity shortages in the coldest months.

ISO-New England needs to listen to the customers, state leaders, and advocates and instead invest in the solar, wind, storage, and efficiency resources that will provide long-term solutions to winter reliability concerns in New England.

Fundamentally, there also needs to be better transparency and collaboration between ISO-New England and stakeholders that represent the public interest. Issues that affect our grid and power are of utmost important to ALL New Englanders, not just the insiders.

Both NEPOOL and ISO-New England need PUBLIC meetings, ACCOUNTABLE board members, and stakeholder participation that prioritizes on end users,

environmental justice community members, and climate advocates.

I've been calling for many of these reforms in my CHARGE Act, which would unlock new clean energy transmission AND promote good governance of our grid t. We need transmission AND accountability—we need to literally bring the Power to the People!

I look forward to working with all of you in this fight to bring ISO-New England to the table for a cleaner, greener, and more fair energy future.”