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## **SENATE POST AUDIT REPORT WARNS OF GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**

**Boston, MA**—Today the Senate Committees on Post Audit and Oversight and Global Warming and Climate Change released “The Cost of Inaction,” a new report detailing the economic and environmental consequences the Commonwealth will face if Massachusetts does not take a strong stance on fighting global warming and climate change.

During a press conference held this morning at the State House, Senator Pacheco was joined by members of the business community and legislators to show support for the strong caps in the Global Warming Solutions Act and likely House action on the legislation.

Attendees included:

- **Sue Reid**, Director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy & Climate Change Initiative at Conservation Law Foundation (617) 850-1740
- **Berl Hartman**, New England Chapter Leader of Environmental Entrepreneurs (617) 497-0393
- **Dave Miller**, executive managing director of Clean Energy Venture Group (877) 531-9017
- **Senator Pamela Resor**, chair of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

“The Commonwealth cannot afford to ignore the negative effects of global warming and climate change any longer,” said Senator Pacheco, chairman of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. “Sea temperatures continue to rise, storm intensity is predicted to heighten, and our economy, the public’s health, and our precious ecosystem are in jeopardy. If global warming and climate change continue to remain unchecked in the Commonwealth, the cost of inaction will be in the billions.”

The new report outlines the economic and environmental costs of inaction including increases in storm emergency funding, higher insurance rates, and other economic costs. The report cites the numerous advantages, such as a competitive advantage in the “green economy” and “early mover” benefits, which would benefit the Commonwealth and help secure its global and national lead on this issue.

“The report is in and the evidence is overwhelming: Massachusetts must take action *now* to avoid the most significant environmental and economic impacts of global warming,” said Sue Reid, Director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy & Climate Change Initiative

at Conservation Law Foundation. “The time has come for us to join the growing number of states that have capped global warming emissions.”

“Massachusetts is looking at the economic opportunity of a lifetime,” said Berl Hartman, New England Chapter Leader of Environmental Entrepreneurs. “The Green Communities Bill and other steps that we’ve taken have brought us to the two-yard line, but it will take the Global Warming Solutions Act to get us the touchdown we need in order to be a leader in the clean energy revolution.”

“As today’s papers report further collapse of the arctic ice sheet and the Bush administration’s inaction on global warming pollution continues, it is now more critical than ever for Massachusetts to show leadership by reducing our emission of global warming pollution as soon as possible” said Ben Wright, Global Warming Advocate for Environment Massachusetts “Science, and recent events have shown us that curbing emissions is necessary, today’s report confirms that those steps are possible and provides us with the road map.”

“Carbon policy such as that proposed in the global warming solutions act will help enable Massachusetts to lead the world in the clean energy economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” Dave Miller, executive managing director of Clean Energy Venture Group.

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