

July 21 ,2020

Honorable Edward Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

We are writing as national and state consumer and public interest leaders and advocates who have spent our careers advancing public health, safety, consumer and environmental protection policies in Congress, the Executive Branch, the Courts and the State of Massachusetts.

We want to thank you for your lifetime of instrumental work in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress, writing laws and forcing issuance of regulations for social justice, public health, safe and affordable transportation, environmental sustainability, a fair marketplace, investor protection, public access to electronic communications, public access to the courts, and personal privacy. A group of us analyzed your record and we have attached our list of your most notable achievements. In all these areas, you are one of the greatest leaders and legislators in Congress.

In addition, we appreciate your latest work advocating for healthcare as a right, for preserving the advances under the Affordable Care Act while pressing for Medicare for All, and your focus on emergency measures for families ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, the cutting-edge “Green New Deal” you proposed with freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has given new hope to a generation of young activists demanding that the existential threat of the climate crisis be addressed immediately and urgently. This is a realistic plan, defined by your determination to transform our job-shrinking fossil fuel economy into a job-building renewable fuel economy.

These are just some recent examples of your advocacy of innovative solutions to deeply embedded problems regardless of the powerful, aggressive special interests that may oppose your remedies. They are evidence that you don’t wait for the political winds to change. You are always ahead of the curve. You have used your positions on key Congressional committees to develop information, acquire key allies, and reach across the aisle to get your proposals firmly embedded into law. Your work benefits not only your constituents in Massachusetts but everyone in America. There is no stronger advocate for the American people in the U. S. Senate today.

Your victories in legislation and congressional oversight far exceed those of your colleagues in Congress. You have never been a Member content simply to cosponsor the work of others or merely cast a vote. You don’t just discuss the need for change. You actually create change.

In fact, an investigation by Atlantic Magazine found that during your service in Congress, your record for getting laws passed--506 as of 2014 (and many more since)-- was in the top 8 percent of all sitting senators.

This evaluation reflects a long and unmatched record of demanding action and taking it upon yourself to get the job done. Your savvy strategic skills and battle-tested leadership are desperately needed at this critical and fragile time in our nation's history. Your stunning portfolio of progressive advances across a broad spectrum of American life span a career that tellingly began with your first race for Congress, when you defiantly declared your independence: "The bosses may tell me where to sit, but no one tells me where to stand."

No matter how difficult the battle or how well-financed the opposition, you are fearless and faithful to your Massachusetts constituents and everyone in America. We are proud to work with you in the trenches to help make your progressive solutions the law of the land.

Sincerely,

***(Please Note: Titles for Individuals are for Identification Purposes Only and Do Not Constitute Organization Endorsements)***

Jason Adkins, Plaintiffs' Counsel, Boston Massachusetts

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Roberta Baskin, 25-year National Investigative Reporter, NBC and CBS

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Michael Berger, Professor of Chemistry, Simmons University, Boston, MA

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Roger L. Berman, President of The Berman Company, Boston; former Chairman, Winchester Select Board

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Paul Harris, Massachusetts Environmental, Education, and Racial Equity Activist

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