For Immediate Release:
Date: 7/30/2020
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6th District Democratic Congressional Candidate Angus McQuilken announces comprehensive proposals to urgently combat the climate crisis

Press Release

Beverly, MA—6th District Democratic Congressional Candidate Angus McQuilken today released a comprehensive set of proposals to address the global climate crisis. With climate change already impacting the coastal region of Massachusetts that he is seeking to represent, McQuilken has stressed the need for urgent action on the climate crisis as one of his six priorities for the 6th Congressional District. McQuilken led a recent Town Hall meeting on the Climate crisis with experts and advocates from the 6th CD.

“The federal government has failed to meaningfully address the climate crisis for more than a generation,” said McQuilken. “The science is clear - we need urgent action in Washington and across the globe to address the root causes of climate change. The proposals I am putting forward today focus on restoring US leadership in international climate talks, setting aggressive goals for carbon and greenhouse gas reduction, creating a policy framework for how to reach those goals, and seizing the opportunity for Massachusetts to lead the world in the development of a new green economy.”

Today, McQuilken released the following set of proposals to meaningfully address the climate crisis:

- Re-engage in international climate talks, restoring US leadership in international climate negotiations with the goal of negotiating an agreement that goes beyond the scale and scope of the Paris Climate Accords.
• Lead the world by example, by embracing and mobilizing toward a goal of 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030, with a fully carbon-neutral economy by no later than 2050.

• Embrace the framework of the Green New Deal, and translate it into legislative proposals that would:
  ○ Make a major investment in infrastructure to advance the development of a new green economy, including climate mitigation projects, electricity transmission networks, and a $1 trillion investment in multimodal transportation infrastructure, such as public transit improvement and expansion, and bicycle-friendly transportation options.
  ○ Provide grant funding for research, small business innovation grants and R&D tax credits to foster the development and commercialization of new green technologies and job creation in the new green economy.
  ○ Establish a refundable carbon fee system, to incentivize environmentally responsible choices in energy consumption while protecting low-income Americans.
  ○ Extend and enhance tax incentives that encourage purchase of electric vehicles, solar conversion and energy efficiency improvements to residences and commercial buildings.
  ○ End subsidies for fossil fuel companies that artificially reduce the price of polluting energy sources.
  ○ Establish an “environmental justice” fund to ensure attention to infrastructure, remediation and clean-up projects in urban and diverse communities, while restoring and strengthening environmental protection and justice laws that have been undermined by the Trump Administration.
  ○ Prioritize and fund natural climate solutions like protecting fresh water from pollution, forest protection, and marsh restoration to preserve natural resiliency.
  ○ Clear the regulatory path for off-shore wind projects, which will bring emission free, competitively priced power to Massachusetts along with thousands of green jobs.

McQuilken, who spent much of the past decade as a Vice-President of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, emphasized the opportunity for Massachusetts to be at the center of a new green economy. “With the right strategy and the right investments, Massachusetts can lead the world in cleantech, just as we now do in the life sciences, and create tens of thousands of jobs in the process,” said McQuilken. “This is where our unique opportunity lies to impact the global climate crisis”.

“In this coastal district, we are already seeing the impacts of climate change and we are seeing those impacts accelerate, including more severe and frequent storms, and drought conditions impacting our ecosystem and drinking water supply” said McQuilken. “Climate change is
impacting us now, and if we fail to act it is the issue that will have the greatest impact on future generations. As a member of Congress, and as a parent of four, I will work tirelessly to ensure that we take action that will move the needle on the climate crisis.”

Gary Martin, a member of the Sustainability Committee in Boxford, said “Angus’s climate policy is a smart approach to addressing the climate crisis while boosting the economy.”

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