

**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

	ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of elected public employee:	John J. Cronin
Title/ Position	State Senator
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts State Senate
Agency address:	24 Beacon Street Room 218 Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	(617) 722-1230
Office e-mail:	John.Cronin@masenate.gov
Write an X to confirm each statement.	I am filing this disclosure because: ☒ I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and ☒ A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.
	ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	I will be joining other elected officials from the Massachusetts State Legislature to visit the Hydro-Quebec facilities in Canada to learn about the interconnections supporting the New England power system, including, but not limited to, the multiterminal direct-current system between Hydro-Quebec's Radisson subsection in Quebec's James Bay region and the Sandy Pond substation in Ayer, Massachusetts.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I will be participating in a tour of Hydro-Quebec's facilities to learn more about the interconnections supporting the New England power system.
Date, time and location of activity.	March 13-15, 2025 Montreal and Radisson, Quebec, Canada
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	The Commonwealth faces a number of challenges in energy policy, including, but not limited to, the high energy costs facing residents and the need for a reliable, competitively priced supply of electricity. Touring Hydro-Quebec's facilities will inform my work in the Massachusetts Senate in this area and support future policymaking to address the energy challenges facing the Commonwealth and its residents.

	TRAVEL EXPENSES
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	Hydro-Quebec Energy Services (U.S.) Inc., U.S. affiliate of Hydro-Quebec
Address of person or organization.	225 Asylum Street, 27 th Floor Hartford, CT 06103
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:
Transportation:	<i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i> \$1050.00 for airfare (between Montreal and Radisson) \$103.00 for ground transportation
Lodging:	<i>Overnight accommodations.</i> N/A
Meals:	<i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i> \$155.00
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i> N/A
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i>
Total:	\$1308.00
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	<u> X </u> I have attached the relevant itinerary. <u> </u> I have attached the relevant agenda.
For the exemption to apply, check off both statements.	Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that: <u> X </u> Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND <u> X </u> Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.
Employee signature:	
Date:	March 12, 2025

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.



Note to generating station visitors: The electromagnetic fields in power plants may disrupt pacemaker operation. As a precaution, **pacemaker users** will not be allowed on the part of the guided tour that takes place inside the power plant.

Note to charter passengers: Please let us know well in advance if you have any **food allergies**.

Attire for facility visit (Friday): Casual but warm, rugged footwear (comfortable for walking), hat, gloves, sunglasses

VISIT SPONSOR

HYDRO-QUEBEC ENERGY SERVICES (U.S.) INC. – U.S. AFFILIATE OF HYDRO-QUÉBEC

225 Asylum Street, 27th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

VISIT RELEVANCE TO POLICY MAKERS

Hydro-Québec has been selling electricity into New England since the 1980s. This U.S. region accounts for about half the company's exports.

In the early 1990s, Hydro-Québec commissioned the Radisson–Nicolet–Des Cantons line (also referred to as the multiterminal direct-current system, Phase II), a 450-kV DC line that connects the La Grande complex, in the Baie-James area, with Sandy Pond substation, near Boston. To date, this line has transmitted more than 100 billion kilowatt hours of clean and reliable electricity.

THE PHASE II LINE BETWEEN RADISSON AND SANDY POND: A NEW ENGLAND–HYDRO-QUÉBEC SUCCESS STORY

The Phase II multiterminal direct-current system (MTDCS) is a very important interconnection for New England, with regular power flows of 1,200–1,400 MW and higher. Construction of this 1,500-km (932-mile) line -- which connects Radisson substation in Québec's James Bay region with Sandy Pond substation in Ayer, Massachusetts -- began in the 1980s through a partnership between Hydro-Québec and New England's utilities. Two long-term contracts, which solidified commitments to buy and sell energy, were key to the construction of this transmission infrastructure.

Many of the same issues that are creating challenges for New England today were evident in the early 1980s and drove the development of this transmission line: the need to break the region's reliance on oil, environmental improvement goals and the search for a reliable, competitively priced supply of electricity.

The New England power system faces various challenges: reliability issues, increasing costs, price volatility and a carbon footprint that the region wishes to improve. In recent winters, price peaks for natural gas have made it difficult for New England's gas generators to secure fuel, sometimes prompting the region to turn to oil-fired generation, which has a much larger carbon footprint. The situation is expected to worsen as nuclear and other non-gas capacity exits the market and several aging facilities are retired, increasing reliance on natural gas.

A NEW INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN QUÉBEC AND NEW ENGLAND

Pursuant to a clean energy request for proposals issued by Massachusetts, Hydro-Québec's was selected to supply 9.45 TWh per year to the commonwealth over 20 years. The power purchase agreements signed with the three local electricity distributors were approved by the state's regulatory authorities in 2019.

A new interconnection must be built between the Québec and New England grids before deliveries can begin. This new interconnection comprises two transmission lines whose construction began in 2021: the Appalaches-Maine line in Québec and the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) in the U.S.

In November 2021, Maine voters passed a referendum to block the NECEC project. Following a ruling of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and a subsequent jury trial in 2023, the project is moving forward once again and is due for completion by January 2026.

ROBERT BOURASSA GENERATING FACILITY

This facility is the largest hydroelectric facility in North America. It is part of a complex of stations responsible for half the electricity generation in Québec and, as discussed above, includes a dedicated DC transmission line to Ayer, Massachusetts.

VISIT ITINERARY

Thursday, March 13

7:00 p.m. Dinner (Le Serpent, 257 Rue Prince, Montréal)
Hosted by H.Q. Energy Services U.S.
Attire: smart casual

Friday, March 14

Breakfast on your own.

8:00 a.m. Depart hotel for Longueuil
Ground transportation arranged

9:15 a.m. Depart FBO Montréal Metropolitan Airport for La Grande Rivière
Charter flight arranged, Chrono Aviation
Equipment: Beechcraft 1900D

- 11:30 a.m. Arrive La Grande Rivière Airport, Radisson
Ground transportation arranged
Welcome by Eric Hamel, Hydro-Québec representative.
- 12:00 p.m. Visit to overlook of water intake
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch at the Hydro-Québec cafeteria, Village of Radisson
Hosted by H.Q. Energy Services U.S.
- 1:45 p.m. Tour of the exterior sites: Robert-Bourassa hydroelectric facilities
Dikes, dam, spillway
- 2:45 p.m. Tour of the Robert-Bourassa underground generating station
Machine hall, turbine pit
- 4:15 p.m. Tour of Radisson substation
Direct link to Ayer, Massachusetts
- 5:00 p.m. Depart for Montréal Municipal Airport
In-flight refreshments available
- 7:15 p.m. Arrive FBO at Montréal Metropolitan Airport, Longueuil
- 8:00 p.m. Arrive at hotel
Ground transportation arranged

Saturday, March 14 (note: precise times not yet final)

Breakfast on your own.

- 9:15 a.m. Depart hotel for Varennes
Ground transportation arranged
- 10:00 a.m. Visit to Hydro-Québec Research Institute (IREQ)
1800 Bd Lionel-Boulet, Varennes
- 12:00 p.m. Return to Montréal
Ground transportation arranged
- 12:45 Arrive at hotel

ESTIMATED VISIT EXPENSES TO HYDRO-QUÉBEC ENERGY SERVICES (U.S.) INC.

3/13 dinner: US\$100 per person

3/14 flight: US\$1,050 per person

3/14 lunch: US\$30 per person

3/14 ground transportation: US\$63 per person

3/15 lunch: US\$25 per person

3/15 Ground transportation: US\$40 per person

