

From "CommonWealth Beacon"
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Subject Federal emissions grants in peril and four other stories

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THE SATURDAY SEND

Welcome back to the Saturday Send, a weekly digest of stories we wrote at *CommonWealth Beacon* that you may have missed.

In this week's roundup, Bhaamati Borkhetaria reports on a series of federal grants targeting diesel fuel emissions – caught up in the whirlwind of Trump executive orders – that are still unavailable in Massachusetts despite a judge ordering all frozen funding be restored immediately.

Plus: Harvard could be on the hook for a morgue employee's body-selling scheme, National Institutes of Health cuts threaten Massachusetts' medical and educational sectors, and decision time looms for the commuter rail.

- The *CommonWealth Beacon* team

Three federal grants targeting diesel fuel emissions are now unavailable to Massachusetts

by **BHAAMATI BORKHETARIA**

The funding freeze continues despite a federal judge's temporary restraining order. Gov. Maura Healey called it "very disruptive. It's harmful to our state, our residents, to our businesses, and to our economy."

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Is Harvard responsible for the alleged sale of body parts from its medical school morgue?

by **JENNIFER SMITH**

It is still unclear if the behavior of a Harvard morgue manager who allegedly ran a multi-state human remains scheme – “ghoulish” in the words of a Supreme Judicial Court justice considering the case – means that the Ivy League school is also on the hook.

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Mass. ‘eds and meds’ economy in the crosshairs

by **MICHAEL JONAS**

The region's acclaimed universities, hospitals, and affiliated research institutions are the fuel that made the region a juggernaut of the 21st-century knowledge economy. Now they are making it a target.

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Join us on Wednesday, 3/5, at the Conference Center at Waltham Woods, for the 2025 NECA Renewable Energy Conference! [Click for details & registration.](#)

This is one of the biggest decisions the MBTA will make in the next five years

by **GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS**

A massive challenge looms for the MBTA: Picking who will operate the sprawling commuter rail system for the public transit agency, how will they do it, and for how long.

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Eight Massachusetts communities crack down on youth tobacco

by **BHAAMATI BORKHETARIA**

As more municipalities pass "nicotine-free generation policies," a parallel effort has hit Beacon Hill.

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The Codcast: New Episode Coming Monday at 6 a.m.!

CommonWealth Beacon editor Laura Colarusso interviews **STATE SEN. JOHN VELIS**.

They discuss the growing issue of smart phone addiction among youth, its impact on mental health, and a new bill aimed at addressing these concerns.

MISSED LAST WEEK'S EPISODE OF THE CODCAST?

CommonWealth Beacon editor **LAURA COLARUSSO** is joined by reporter **GIN DUMCIUS** to discuss Josh Kraft's mayoral candidacy, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's response, and top issues in this race.

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