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Marcy Reed's summer tour

By Globe Staff JUNE 21, 2016

When most of us think of summer trips, we plan expeditions to the mountains or to waterfront towns. But National Grid's Marcy Reed has a different kind of itinerary underway for her summer, one that will take her to air-conditioned corporate offices instead.

Reed last week was named chair of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable for a two-year term, taking over for Mike Hogan, CEO of cranberry grower A.D. Makepeace Co. In that role, Reed will squeeze in visits to as many as 20 of the Roundtable's largest member employers this summer to learn more about the public policies that are important to them. That means stopping by well-known companies such as Raytheon Co., Verizon, and Liberty Mutual.

Reed didn't waste much time getting started. She became the Roundtable's chair on Thursday morning at the business advocacy group's annual meeting, held at PwC's new Boston office building in the Seaport. That afternoon, she was in Worcester, meeting with Becker College president Robert Johnson.

Reed has to weave these responsibilities in with her day job as National Grid's Massachusetts president, a role that involves dealing with occasional union activities: She says she spoke with a handful of union members who gathered outside the Roundtable meeting to protest. (Two United Steelworkers locals are in the midst of contract negotiations with National Grid.)

As she embarks on her "listening tour" to visit Roundtable companies, she says she plans to pay close attention to what they think of the group's existing priorities for Beacon Hill — a list that includes transportation, energy, and workforce development.

"On a personal level," Reed said, "I get a kick out of being able to translate what's important to our businesses into policy."



CHRIS MORRIS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE