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Gary Christenson, Mayor

September 4, 2017

The Honorable City Council
110 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

I write to ask for your consideration in passing a resolve in supporting Massachusetts House Bill 2683 and Senate Bill 1845, *An Act Relative to Protecting Consumers of Gas and Electricity from Paying for Leaked and Unaccounted for Gas*.

Over thousands of gas leaks have been documented in our statewide network of distribution pipelines. These leaks can cause explosions, kill trees, are harmful to human health, and are nearly 90 percent methane which is a greenhouse gas that is extremely dangerous. Moreover, the utilities do not pay for the gas that is wasted through leaks but instead pass the cost on to the customers by factoring it into the price they charge.

This legislation will incentivize repair or replacement of gas pipes by prohibiting utilities from charging ratepayers for the cost of lost and unaccounted for gas. It also encourages improved technologies while benefitting consumers and the environment.

Several cities and towns have passed resolutions in support of the bills mentioned above. I would urge us to join them by passing a similar resolve. Please let me know if you need any additional information and in the meantime, I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

cc: Bob Knox, Public Works Director