



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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March 13, 2014

Senator Stephen M. Brewer, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Room 212
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Brewer,

H3873, "An Act relative to natural gas leaks" was recently reported to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

There is particular concern in Back Bay, where leaks are common and the gas infrastructure is among the oldest in the country. Many gas lines in Boston use old cast iron pipes which would no longer be installed to transmit gas because they are too prone to leak. The methane gas emitted from these leaks is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts and can pose a threat to public safety.

H3873 will create a uniform set of reporting and maintenance procedures for gas utilities to address leaks. Requiring utilities to repair hazardous leaks will benefit public safety, the environment and result in lower costs to the ratepayers of our gas utilities.

I hope the Senate Committee on Ways and Means will take favorable action on H3873.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William N. Brownsberger".

Senator William N. Brownsberger
Second Suffolk and Middlesex

