



CITY OF MELROSE

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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March 8, 2019

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station – 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

**Re: Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities)
On its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and) D.P.U. 19-07
Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric)
Competitive Supply Market)**

Dear Secretary Marini,

As the Energy Efficiency Manager for the City of Melrose and the coordinator of our municipal aggregation program, I was pleased to join my colleagues from other cities and towns in their comments and conclusions in response to the Notice of Investigation issued by the Department of Public Utilities on January 18, 2019.

I fully agree with all of the suggestions made by the aggregation communities to improve the current retail electric competitive supply market in order to protect consumers. However, I would like to go further and state that based on the experience with retail electric suppliers in Melrose, I concur with the recommendation made by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office (AGO) that state legislators should consider eliminating the electric supply market for individual residential consumers.

The overwhelming evidence in the March 2018 AGO analysis “Are Consumers Benefitting from Competition?” matches exactly with the experience of low-income seniors in Melrose who are preyed upon, intentionally misled, and over-charged by residential electric supply marketers. I don’t think any amount of oversight or new standards of conduct will change the incentives in the existing market to sell over-priced products to residents who can least afford them.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to submit my comments.

Sincerely,

Martha S. Grover
Energy Efficiency Manager