

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
GATEWAY CITIES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

December 16, 2020
VIA EMAIL & electronic submission

RE: Electric Supply Industry Oversight (DPU Docket# 19-07)

Dear Secretary Theoharides & Chairman Nelson:

We, the undersigned members of the Gateway Cities Legislative Caucus, write to you to voice our strong support of the Department of Public Utilities' efforts to implement additional oversight within the competitive electric supply industry to better protect Massachusetts consumers.

For years, consumers across the Commonwealth, especially those residing in a Gateway Community, have been taken advantage of financially by the competitive electric supply industry and its deceptive sales tactics. These deceptive sales tactics, as confirmed by a recent report conducted by the Attorney General's Office, have historically targeted low-income households, communities of color, and individuals whose second language is English through door-to-door or telephone marketing.

In fact, the Attorney General's report released in March of 2018 found that consumers who were the target of such business practices in Massachusetts lost a total of \$176.8 million between July 2015 and June 2017, compared to consumers who sought out an electric supply company of their own accord.

Due to the pervasive nature of this issue within our collective communities, we respectfully request that the Department of Public Utilities require each competitive electric supply industry operating in Massachusetts to report every city and town in which they conduct door-to-door or telephone-based marketing to increase consumer protection transparency.

This is a commonsense and practical approach to curtail this discriminatory practice and will provide the Department of Public Utilities, the Attorney General's Office, and the Massachusetts Legislature with the data to hold competitive electric supply companies responsible in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the Gateway Cities Legislative Caucus with any questions that you may have regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Rep. Frank Moran
17th Essex District

Senator Eric Lesser
First Hamden & Hampshire District

Rep. Antonio F.D. Cabral
13th Bristol District

Rep. Stephan Hay
3rd Worcester District

Rep. David H.A. LeBoeuf
17th Worcester District

Rep. Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex District

Rep. Carole Fiola
6th Bristol District

Rep. Carol Doherty
3rd Bristol District

Rep. Paul Schmid
8th Bristol District

Rep. Christina Minicucci
14th Essex District

Rep. James O'Day
14th Worcester District

Rep. Joseph McGonagle
28th Middlesex District

Senator Barry Finegold
Second Essex & Middlesex District

Senator Sal DiDomenico
Middlesex & Suffolk District

Senator Diana DiZoglio
First Essex District

Senator Brendan Crighton
Third Essex District

Senator Harriette Chandler
First Worcester District

Rep. Carlos Gonzalez
10th Hampden District

Rep. Alan Silvia
7th Bristol District

Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier
3rd Berkshire District

Rep-Elect Patricia Duffy
5th Hampden District