



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR PATRICK M. O'CONNOR

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November 13, 2018

Michael J. Barrett, Senate Chair  
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy  
State House, Room 416  
Boston, MA 02133

Thomas A. Golden, Jr., House Chair  
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy  
State House, Room 473B  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairmen Barrett and Golden,

I write in strong support of **House Docket 4975, *An Act relative to the employment of certain workers by National Grid***, which was filed by Representative James O'Day and was referred to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy on October 25. This crucial piece of legislation would help slow the ongoing negative impacts caused by National Grid's lockout of employees represented by United Steelworkers Locals 12003 and 12012.

For six months, approximately 1,300 skilled gas workers have been barred from going to work and earning a living for their families. Over the course of these months, the rate of gas leak repairs and gas hookups for new customers has fallen by about 50% from this time last year. With each day that passes, this lockout grows to be an increasing threat both to the families who rely on employment with National Grid and to general public health and safety.

House Docket 4975 would incentivize National Grid to rectify this worsening situation and return to negotiations with United Steelworkers Locals 12003 and 12012. This legislation will accomplish these objectives by withholding any tax dollars from being expended on upgrades, maintenance, or installation of gas infrastructure used by National Grid. HD.4975 would also prohibit National Grid from applying for Chapter 90 funding to assist in paying the costs for their gate boxes, disallow the DPU from approving rate increases for consumer gas or electricity distribution or rate relief to National Grid, and require that National Grid continue to provide health insurance to employees represented by United Steelworkers Locals 12003 and 12012.

These provisions would be in effect until National Grid ends the lockout of their skilled gas workers. I believe that this legislative approach is proportionate to the increasingly desperate

conditions caused by the lockout, and that action must be taken quickly to restore control over a situation that is endangering public safety, gas workers, and their families.

It is for these reasons that I respectfully urge the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to schedule a hearing for House Docket 4975 and advance the bill favorably so that it may pass before the end of this legislative session. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns regarding these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat O'Connor", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Patrick M. O'Connor**  
State Senator  
Plymouth & Norfolk District