

HOUSE No. 2934

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Lori A. Ehrlich

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to prevent unnecessary arboreal costs due to natural gas leaks.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balse</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 2934

By Ms. Ehrlich of Marblehead, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2934) of Lori A. Ehrlich and others relative to the detection and repair of natural gas leaks and reimbursement for damages. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to prevent unnecessary arboreal costs due to natural gas leaks.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after
2 section 9 the following section:-

3 Section 10. (a) Any potential hazard resulting from a natural gas leak to persons, property
4 or the environment due to leaking natural gas shall be prescribed remedial actions. Each gas
5 company shall promptly respond to any notification of a natural gas leak, gas odor or any
6 notification of damage to facilities by excavators or other outside sources to protect persons and
7 property and limit the amount of natural gas expelled to the atmosphere.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
9 following section:-

10 Section xx. (a) Any suspected damage to a tree due to a natural gas leak should be
11 reported to the gas company for mandatory inspection by a qualified arborist.

12 (b) If a qualified arborist determines that a tree is damaged or killed by a natural gas leak,
13 the gas company shall repair or replace the pipeline where the leak is present no later than 6
14 months from the date the leak was detected or before a tree is replaced.

15 (c) If a qualified arborist determines that a tree is damaged or killed by a natural gas leak,
16 the gas company shall provide the entity which owns the tree with the funds to replace the
17 compromised tree.

18 (c) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section.