

164 Scituate St.
Arlington, MA 02476
October, 3, 2019

Arlington Select Board
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Members of the Arlington Select Board,

Arlington Mothers Out Front and Sustainable Arlington are writing to request that you adopt a non-binding resolution supporting the principles of The FUTURE Act, [An Act For Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy, H.2849, S.1940](#), sponsored by Representatives Lori Ehrlich and Christina A. Minicucci and Senator Cynthia S. Creem. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H2849>, <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1940>
It has over 50 co-sponsors, including Senator Cindy Friedman and Representatives Sean Garballey and David Rogers.

The FUTURE Act, H,2849, S.1940, is currently before the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. No deadlines for responding have passed. A Legislative Briefing is scheduled for October 23. The hearing had not been scheduled as of late September.

The urgent need for The FUTURE Act is underscored by two events last fall: the publication of the United Nations IPCC report and the catastrophic Merrimack Valley gas explosions, and the recent publication of the report **Rolling the Dice: Assessment of Gas System Safety in Massachusetts**. <https://www.gasleaksallies.org/rolling-the-dice>

The Act addresses immediate issues regarding gas leak safety in Massachusetts communities and it provides communities with important tools. It also lays out a safe path to transition off natural gas by 2050 in response to the climate crisis, a transition made possible by innovations in renewable thermal energy.

The FUTURE Act has been drafted by a committee of the Gas Leaks Allies, a coalition of 24 organizations (including HEET, Conservation Law Foundation, Sierra Club and Mothers Out Front, and 350MA), and 2 individuals. The Gas Leaks Allies work closely with legislative and agency leaders to pass laws and improve regulations regarding the gas distribution system as well as a rapid, just transition to renewable energy sources. <https://www.gasleaksallies.org/laws-and-regulations> The Act:

1. Addresses gas leaks -- gas safety and road project management (e.g., gas companies must notify fire and police departments within an hour or less of detecting Grade 1, 2 or 3 leaks; faster repair of potentially hazardous Grade 2 leaks; protection for schools; transparency in leak mapping)

2. Provides municipalities and ratepayers recourse at the Department of Public Utilities for property damage, including trees killed by gas, and to resolve disputes with the gas company.
3. Includes an incentive to utilities to move away from gas and to innovate to accomplish that. As municipalities, we can't afford to do this ourselves.
4. Brings renewable and more affordable clean energy to all residents and does not leave low and moderate-income homes behind to foot the bill for more expensive fossil fuels.
5. Helps Arlington build on its substantial strides as a Massachusetts Green Community and member of the Metro Mayors Coalition and helps Arlington achieve its goal of reaching Net Zero by 2050.

Please find attached, as listed below, materials relating to The FUTURE Act.

If you have any questions that I cannot answer, I would be glad to connect you with Gas Leaks Allies members who have been involved in drafting this legislation and have written some of the attached supporting documents.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Like the Town of Arlington, Mothers Out Front and Sustainable Arlington are committed to finding a safe, effective path to a cleaner and safer energy future for all our residents.

Sincerely,

Brucie Moulton
On behalf of
Arlington Mothers Out Front
Sustainable Arlington

Attachments:

- Resolution
- Key talking points Info Sheet (2 pages)
- FUTURE Road Map for Municipalities (2 pages)
- A point-by-point discussion, Road Map to the FUTURE Act (8 pages)